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Coronavirus lockdown on Aruba

ORANJESTAD — In connection to the COVID-19 the Government of Aruba (GOA) announced a complete "Lockdown" for all international incoming passengers starting midnight tonight (16th to the 17th), ending on the 31st of March 2020. For our American visitors it is advised to contact the airline directly for more information. The Aruba Tourism Authority (A.T.A.) estimates 5.000 to 7.000 tourists who are va-

cationing on the island will need to return in the upcoming days. Relief flights will be possible as long as the airline is willing to operate them.

On March 13 GOA officially confirmed the first two cases that were tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. In total 21 tests were performed. During a press conference last night the Prime Minister of Aruba, Evelyn Wever-Croes, con-



firmed that cargo will continue to be flown in and also medical transportation will proceed. Residents

of Aruba can continue to come in, however a travel advisory shall be instituted for residents basically warn-

ing them not to travel.

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European arrivals jam some U.S. airports amid virus screenings

By **TERRY SPENCER** and **TERESA CRAWFORD**

Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP)—Harsh criticism rained on the Trump administration Sunday from state and local officials over long lines of returning international passengers at some U.S. airports that could have turned them into coronavirus carriers as they tried to get home.

Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker and Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, both Democrats, lambasted the administration for allowing about 3,000 Americans returning from Europe to be stuck for hours inside the customs area at O'Hare International Airport on Saturday, violating federal recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that people practice "social distancing."

The passengers, many of them rushing home because of fears they would be stuck in Europe, were screened by federal customs and homeland security agents for coronavirus symptoms before they were allowed to leave the airport.

Long lines also formed Saturday in Boston, Dallas and others of the 13 airports that are accepting return flights from Europe.

"People were forced into conditions that are against CDC guidance and are totally unacceptable," Lightfoot said.

Conditions were better Sunday, but lines could again grow as the day progresses and more flights arrive. Not every U.S. airport accepting European arrivals experienced overcrowding. Airports serving Miami, Seattle, Los Angeles and Newark, New Jersey,



Passengers arrive on a flight from Germany at Logan International Airport in Boston, Friday, March, 13, 2020.

reported short lines at customs Saturday and Sunday. For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority of people recover. Lightfoot singled out Vice President Mike Pence and his coronavirus task force for not talking with local officials before implementing the screening program. State and local officials could have offered "concrete suggestions" for how the program could have been implemented with the least disruption, she said, but the administration acted unilaterally. "Thousands of travelers were forced to wait in ex-

ceedingly long lines, congregating in concourses and putting themselves and their loved ones at greater risk of exposure," Lightfoot said. Passengers Sunday will likely be kept on their planes to manage the flow into the customs area, she said. But Pritzker predicted Sunday would "be even worse" on NBC's "Meet the Press." He said that the administration should have bolstered staffing at the receiving airports in anticipation of long lines. But instead, he said, passengers "were stuck in a small area, hundreds and hundreds of people, and that's exactly what you don't want in this pandemic." Texas Gov. Greg Abbot, a Republican and strong supporter of the president, tweeted Sunday that the lines in Dallas were "unac-

ceptable & I'm working hard to get it fixed." He said he had contacted the head of Homeland Security, acting Secretary Chad Wolf.

President Donald Trump defended the administration's actions in a tweet Sunday.

"We are doing very precise Medical Screenings at our airports. Pardon the interruptions and delays, we are moving as quickly as possible, but it is very important that we be vigilant and careful.

We must get it right. Safety first!" he wrote.

Acting Customs and Border Patrol Commissioner Mark Morgan said in a written statement Sunday that the agency is making improvements to its procedures, but that it must "balance our efficiencies with ensuring the health and safety of all American citizens through enhanced medical screening."

Katy Rogers spent four hours Saturday at O'Hare in a tightly packed space with students, a basketball team, musicians and older people in wheelchairs. "Everybody was nervous about it," she said Sunday.

Continued on next page

Associated Press

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Continued from previous page
"Everyone working there was confused and frustrated, and there were hands were tied, too." Even though she showed no signs of being sick, she now plans to quarantine herself on the organic produce farm she runs in Noblesville, Indiana. Elizabeth Pulvermacher, a University of Wisconsin student, arrived Saturday at O'Hare from Madrid, where she had been studying. The customs process made her feel "unsafe," she said. "The whole idea is getting rid of the spread of coronavirus, but there were hundreds and hundreds of people in very close prox-

imity," Pulvermacher said. Dr. Robert Murphy, executive director of Institute for Global Health at Northwestern University, said he was "appalled" by what he saw Saturday at nearby O'Hare. "If they weren't exposed to COVID-19 before, they probably are now. From a public health perspective, this is malpractice," Murphy said in a statement. "The lack of preparation and concern is unfathomable. This is not 'poor planning.' This is 'no planning.'" Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top infectious disease expert, said on "Fox News Sunday" that the airport crowds could spread the disease, but that they


are likely to continue. Americans must understand that there is no need to rush back from Europe, he said, but "when people see a travel ban, they immediately want to hunker and get home." "Hopefully we don't have more of that, but I think we probably unfortunately will," he said. Travelers from restricted countries in Europe, China and Iran are being advised to self-quarantine for 14 days after reaching their final destination in the U.S. The worldwide outbreak has sickened more than 156,000 people and left more than 5,800 dead, with thousands of new cases





In this Saturday, March 14, 2020 photo provided by Elizabeth Pulvermacher travelers returning from Madrid wait in a coronavirus screening line at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. Associated Press

confirmed each day. The States climbed to 61, while death toll in the United infections neared 3,000. □

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Biden, Sanders to debate against backdrop of global pandemic

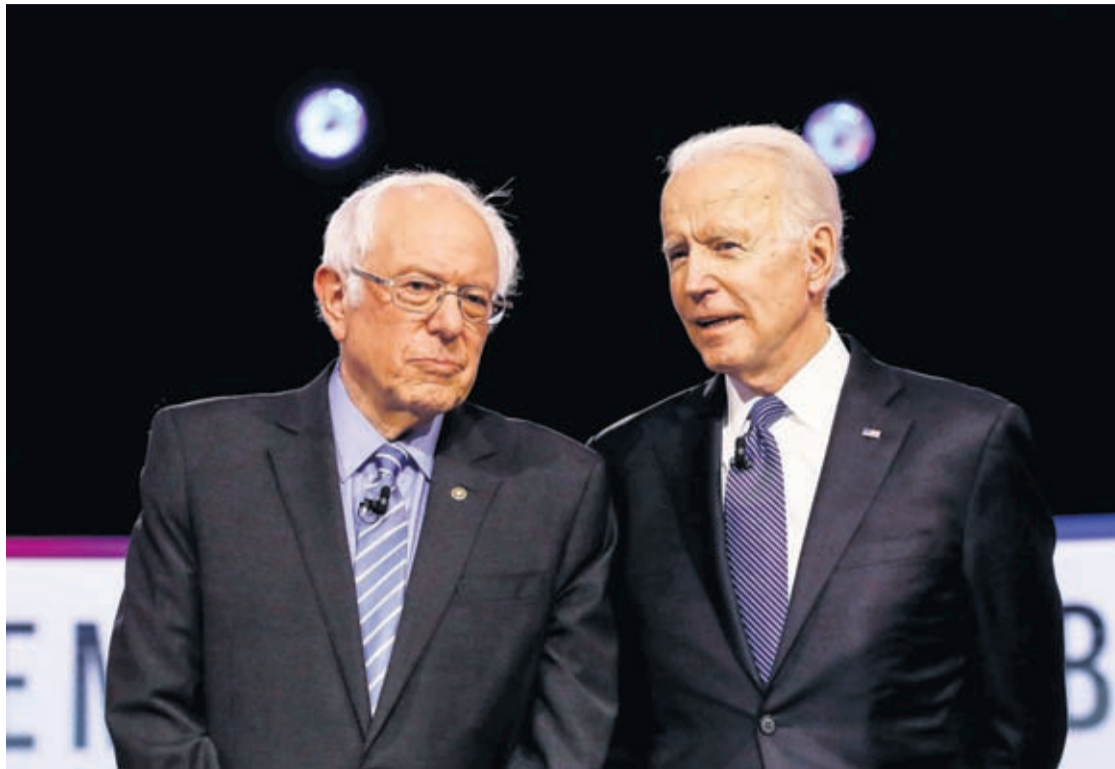
By JULIE PACE

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Vice President Joe Biden and Sen. Bernie Sanders are set to face off Sunday night in the first one-on-one debate of the Democratic primary, a contest that comes as the nation and much of the world struggle to contain a global pandemic amid mounting economic uncertainty.

Much has changed in the United States, and in the campaign, since the Democrats' last debate less than three weeks ago.

It is Biden who will step on stage as the front-runner, a distinction that seemed unlikely when Sanders was winning early contests. But more moderate Democrats have rapidly consolidated around Biden, buoyed by his strong standing with black voters and motivated by a desire to block Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist who many in the party believe would lose to President Donald Trump in November.

The fast-moving coronavirus has largely grounded the candidates for days,



In this Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2020 file photo, Democratic presidential candidates, Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., left, and former Vice President Joe Biden, talk before a Democratic presidential primary debate in Charleston, S.C.

leading them to cancel campaign rallies even as big states prepare to vote on Tuesday. That's also frozen the trajectory of the primary contest, limiting Sanders' opportunities to regain momentum.

For both Biden and Sanders, the debate is a moment

to display their leadership skills in front of what could be one of the largest audiences of the primary. They'll aim to draw a contrast with Trump's uneven handling of the coronavirus pandemic. And the Democrats will argue over who has the right experience, temperament

and policy prescriptions to lead the nation through a crisis.

"Moments like these don't come around often in campaigns, and this is a perfect opportunity to show millions that you have what it takes," said Robert Gibbs, former White House press secretary and campaign adviser to President Barack Obama. "They must show voters they are the answer to what is missing right now by being calm, honest, ready to lead and empathetic."

The coronavirus crisis rapidly upended plans for Sunday's debate. First, the Democratic National Committee announced that it would hold the contest without a live audience. Then the debate was moved from a large venue in Arizona, one of the states holding a primary Tuesday, to a television studio in Washington because of concerns about cross-country travel.

CNN, the network hosting the debate, said it was positioning the podiums for Biden and Sanders to be 6 feet apart in keeping with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for limiting the spread of the novel coronavirus.

For Biden, the outbreak of

a global pandemic has been a moment to bolster the central argument of his candidacy: that his eight years as vice president give him the experience, as well as the relationships in Washington and around the world, that are needed in the Oval Office during turbulent times.

Advisers say Biden will also aim in Sunday's debate to show voters who backed Sanders or other liberal candidates that they have a home in his campaign. In one overture to liberals, Biden announced his support for a bankruptcy plan championed by Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who ended her 2020 campaign earlier this month and has yet to endorse anyone.

In a virtual town hall on Friday, Biden said his support for Warren's proposal, which aims to simplify the bankruptcy process, is "one of the things that I think Bernie and I will agree on."

And just hours before the debate, Biden announced he was adopting Sanders' plan to make public colleges and universities tuition-free for students whose family incomes are below \$125,000.

After rebounding in stunning fashion from his sluggish start in the primary, Biden now holds a solid lead over Sanders in the all-important delegate race, and a strong showing in Tuesday's primary contests could effectively guarantee his nomination. Four big states will be up for grabs: Illinois, Ohio, Arizona and Florida, a perennial general election battleground where Biden appears to have an edge over Sanders.

Sanders and his supporters were caught off guard by how quickly the race has moved away from them. The Vermont senator still retains a loyal following among young voters and liberals, but he's failed to expand his appeal, particularly among black voters. His calls for a sweeping political and economic revolution have also fallen flat with suburban voters. □

States turn to cash reserves as coronavirus strains budgets

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo (AP) — States across the U.S. are allocating hundreds of millions of dollars to respond to the coronavirus, even as the U.S. government prepares to send billions more their way.

Many states have built up sizable stockpiles in their "rainy day" funds during several robust years of tax collections. Some governors and state lawmakers now are tapping into those savings for emergency expenses. Others are looking to set aside even more in reserve, fearing the economic uncertainties stemming from the coronavirus could send tax revenues into a tailspin.

"Forget the closure on Broadway — the loss of revenue to the state government, right now, is incalculable," said New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat.

He pulled the curtain on Broadway theaters this past week while banning gatherings of 500 or more people.

President Donald Trump said Friday that he would free up as much as \$50 billion for state and local governments as he declared the virus pandemic a national emergency. Many governors also have declared emergencies, giving themselves greater flexibility to spend money and waive regulations as needed.

"All the resources we can have on hand — to make sure if things get worse — we want," said Missouri Gov. Mike Parson, a Republican, while announcing a state of emergency just hours after the president did so.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especial-

ly older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

State and local public health agencies have been on the front lines of the response, monitoring and testing those suspected of having the virus that causes the COVID-19 disease. Costs are mounting for staff time and medical supplies.

But states also are bracing for a potential ripple effect on their revenues. The cancellation of major sporting and entertainment events could mean less tax revenue from tourists and local residents. Directives to work and study at home instead of at offices, schools and colleges could mean less revenue from fuel taxes and public transit fares. And if some employees can't go to work, that could put a damper on state income and withholding taxes while driving up spending for public welfare programs such as unemployment insurance and state Medicaid health care programs.

"It definitely has the potential to have a significant impact on state budgets — both on the spending and revenue side," said Brian Sigritz, director of state fiscal studies at the National Association of State Budget Officers.

"One positive, if you want to use that word, is that this is coming after a period where states have seen strong revenue growth for the past couple of years ... and have been able to increase the size of their rainy day funds and reserves," Sigritz added.

Across all states last fiscal year, the median rainy day fund balance equaled 7.6% of general fund ex-



New York Governor Andrew Cuomo speaks during a news conference at a COVID-19 coronavirus infection testing facility at Glen Island Park, Friday, March 13, 2020, in New Rochelle, N.Y. Associated Press

penditures. That's a record high that was way up from a 1.6% share of general fund expenditures in the 2010 fiscal year, according to the budget officers group.

In Washington state, which has seen the greatest number of U.S. coronavirus

deaths, lawmakers this past week approved a budget that draws \$200 million from the state's rainy day fund. Of that, \$175 million is to go to the public health system with the rest going to a special unemployment fund for affected businesses and workers. □

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Fauci open to a 14-day 'national shutdown' to stem virus

By HOPE YEN and AAMER MADHANI

WASHINGTON (AP) — The government's top infectious disease expert said Sunday he would like to see aggressive measures such as a 14-day national shutdown that would require Americans to hunker down even more to help slow spread of the coronavirus. Still, Dr. Anthony Fauci said travel restrictions within the United States, such as to and from hard-hit Washington state and California, probably will not be needed anytime soon.

Fauci, the public face of the administration's messaging during a round of morning TV interviews, said the country should do as much as "we possibly could," even if officials are criticized for "overreacting." He said he raised the issue of measures such as a shutdown with the Trump administration, and said it has been open to his ideas.

"I think Americans should be prepared that they are going to have to hunker down significantly more than we as a country are doing," said Fauci, a member of the White House task force on combating the spread of coronavirus. He heads the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health.

Fauci said the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions should already be hunkering down, but other Americans, too, should consider "much more" restrictions on outside activity, from work and travel to possibly eating at restaurants.

"Everybody has got to



Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, speaks during a briefing on coronavirus in the Brady press briefing room at the White House, Saturday, March 14, 2020, in Washington.

Associated Press

get involved in distancing themselves socially," Fauci said.

"Everything is on the table," he said. "Right now, myself personally, I wouldn't go to a restaurant. I just wouldn't because I don't want to be in a crowded place. ... I don't want to be in a situation where I'm going to be all of a sudden self-isolating for 14 days." The virus has an incubation period of anywhere from two days to 14 days before symptoms emerge.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The worldwide outbreak has sickened more than 156,000 people and left more than 5,800 dead. The death toll in the United States has reached more than 50, while infections neared 3,000 across 49 states and the District of Columbia.

The vast majority of people recover. According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three weeks to six weeks to recover.

President Donald Trump last week announced a sweeping travel ban for much of Europe. On Saturday, he added the United Kingdom and Ireland to a list of countries that would face travel restrictions over the next 30 days. The State Department on Sunday said it would allow U.S. personnel to leave their diplomatic or consular posts worldwide if they or family members were medically determined to be at a higher risk of falling very ill if exposed to the virus.

Trump also has pledged broadened U.S. testing for the virus as major employers such as Apple Inc. have sent workers home to telework and several states and big cities, including Los Angeles and Boston, shuttered down schools for a

week or more.

In the nation's capital, White House officials said Trump tested negative for the virus over the weekend after he was recently in contact with three people at his Florida resort who tested positive, and several lawmakers in recent days have said they were self-quarantining out of an abundance of caution.

On Sunday, Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff, chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, said a former staff member tested positive for COVID-19. That staffer, Daniel Goldman, the attorney who led Democratic questioning during the House impeachment hearings, had left the office 10 days ago and he's believed to have contracted the virus after his departure. "We will still be taking additional precautions over the next few days," Schiff said. "The former staffer is feeling better and no current staff have reported any flu-like symptoms at this time."

NIH reported Sunday that one of its staff working in its division on arthritis and musculoskeletal and skin diseases had tested positive for COVID-19, its first case. NIH said the person was not involved in patient care and was now quarantined at home and "doing well."

Trump has suggested that restrictions on travel within the U.S. to areas hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic could be next. But Fauci on Sunday played down that or having major national lockdowns on the level now seen in European countries such as Italy and Spain.

"We feel that with rather stringent mitigation and containment, without necessarily complete lockdown, we would be able to prevent ourselves from getting to where, unfortunately, Italy is now," Fauci said.

"With regard to domestic travel bans, we always talk about it, consider everything. But I can tell you that has not been seriously considered, doing travel bans in the country. ... I don't see that right now or in the immediate future."

At the White House, Trump on Sunday was set to hold a call with grocery store executives to discuss their response to coronavirus outbreak. Retailers have reported seeing a crush of shoppers flocking to stores to stock up on food and other essentials. Consumers have expressed frustration that some items — such as hand sanitizer and toilet paper — are becoming more difficult to find.

But more than the crisis was on his mind. He tweeted that he was considering a full pardon for Michael Flynn, his disgraced former national security adviser, and he directed barbs at a familiar target, Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York.

White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow expressed confidence that supply lines such as food for stores will be largely unaffected by the virus outbreak.

"I've read about some situations where this is a difficulty, but most of our supply lines are working pretty well in the domestic United States," he said. □

Government official: Coronavirus vaccine trial starts Monday

By ZEKE MILLER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A clinical trial evaluating a vaccine designed to protect against the new coronavirus will begin Monday, according to a government official.

The first participant in the trial will receive the experimental vaccine on Monday, the official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity because the trial has not been publicly announced yet. The National Institutes of Health is funding the trial, which is taking place at the Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute in

Seattle, the official said.

Public health officials say it will take a year to 18 months to fully validate any potential vaccine.

Testing will begin with 45 young, healthy volunteers with different doses of shots co-developed by NIH and Moderna Inc. There's no chance participants could get infected from the shots, because they don't contain the virus itself. The goal is purely to check that the vaccines show no worrisome side effects, setting the stage for larger tests.

Dozens of research groups around the world are racing to create a vaccine as COVID-19 cases continue to

grow. Importantly, they're pursuing different types of vaccines — shots developed from new technologies that not only are faster to produce than traditional inoculations but might prove more potent. Some researchers even aim for temporary vaccines, such as shots that might guard people's health a month or two at a time while longer-lasting protection is developed.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The worldwide outbreak has sickened



A gun store customer that gave his name only at John waits in line, Sunday, March 15, 2020, in Burbank, Calif.

Associated Press

more than 156,000 people and left more than 5,800 dead. The death toll in the United States is more than 50, while infections neared 3,000 across 49 states and the District of Columbia. The vast majority of people

recover. According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three weeks to six weeks to recover. □

Georgia Tech officer who killed student won't face charges

ATLANTA (AP) — A Georgia Tech police officer who fatally shot a student struggling with depression won't face criminal charges, a district attorney announced Friday.

Officer Tyler Beck shot and killed fourth-year student Scout Schultz in Sept. 2017 after Schultz refused to drop his weapon.

Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard said Beck won't face criminal charges in Schultz's death, news outlets reported. Howard said two use-of-force experts concluded the shooting was justified.

Schultz, 21, called police and said a man was walking around the dorms with a knife and possibly had a gun. Schultz gave police a physical description of himself.

Beck and three other officers were dispatched to the parking deck where Schultz was waiting with a multi-tool knife. A video capturing the incident shows Schultz daring police to fire their weapons as he ignored officers' commands to stand still and drop his weapon.

Beck shot Schultz in the chest.

The Georgia Bureau of In-

vestigation found three suicide notes and Schultz's parents confirmed he suffered from depression and tried to kill himself two years earlier.

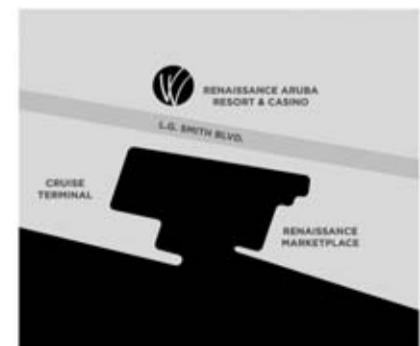
Howard said evidence indicates Schultz provoked the officers so they could shoot him. Attorney Chris Stewart, who represents Schultz's parents, said the "suicide by cop" defense doesn't justify the shooting.

Schultz's parents filed a wrongful death lawsuit against Georgia Tech, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and Beck. The lawsuit said Beck used excessive force and wasn't adequately trained to respond to situations involving people experiencing mental health crises. If he'd had proper training, Schultz would be alive, Stewart previously said.

Beck had been an officer for about 16 months at the time of the shooting, and training records do not indicate that he had training in crisis intervention techniques. Less than one-third of Georgia Tech's police officers had undergone the 40-hour course, according to records released by the school at that time. □



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Virus voting: France holds local elections despite fears

By SYLVIE CORBET

PARIS (AP) — French voters went to the polls Sunday to choose mayors and other local leaders but the second round of the vote was put into question amid concerns over low turnout and the rapid spread of the new coronavirus across the country.

Interior Minister Christophe Castaner said the turnout for Sunday's vote, which should be known overnight, will clearly be lower than usual as many people didn't go to polling stations over fears that would fuel the spread of the virus that has upended travel plans, closed schools and rattled financial markets.

Several political leaders from the right and the left called for the second round to be postponed. Sunday's vote came just as a drastic new rules took effect shutting down all of France's restaurants, museums and most stores to stem the spreading coronavirus that emerged in China late last year.

French health authorities on Sunday reported 5,423



Volunteers wearing masks and gloves wait for voters in a polling station during local elections in Lyon, central France, Sunday, March 15, 2020.

confirmed cases of COVID-19 —an additional 900 compared to the day before—including 127 people who have died.

Prime Minister Edouard Philippe praised the organization of the local vote and those "citizens who have chosen to go to the polls

and have therefore shown their attachment to municipal democracy."

But Philippe said he will gather a scientific committee and talk with the leaders of France's political parties in order to decide whether to organize the second round of voting, which is currently scheduled for March 22.

Philippe, who is running for mayor in his hometown of Le Havre, appeared to be leading in the first round, according to estimates from polling institutes based on partial results, which also put Paris's mayor, Socialist Anne Hidalgo, ahead. Far-right leader Marine Le Pen called said Sunday the second round "obviously won't take place." A candidate with her National Rally party, Steeve Briois, was elected Sunday with an absolute majority of the votes in Le Pen's fiefdom, the northern town of Henin-Beaumont.

A key figure in the far-right

party, Louis Aliot, appeared largely ahead in the southern town of Perpignan, according to estimations by poll institutes.

French President Emmanuel Macron decided not to delay Sunday's election amid concerns that would be undemocratic. But the virus hurt Sunday's turnout, which was only 38% by 5 p.m., compared to 54% at that time in 2014.

"I believe it is important that that democratic moment take place," Macron said after voting in his hometown of Le Touquet in northern France.

Macron said he keeps hydro-alcoholic gel in his pocket and added that he hasn't been tested for the virus because he has no symptoms.

Those who showed up to the poll stations described a feeling of duty, despite the challenges.

"It's not ideal, but it's important we go vote. Life in this city and in society shouldn't stop," said Laure Marie Diers, a manager in Paris.

The government ordered unprecedented sanitary measures at polling stations.

Organizers were told to impose a one-meter (about three-foot) gap between people in lines, and to provide soap or hydro-alcoholic gel and disinfectant

wipes for voting machines. Voters were told to bring their own pens to sign the register.

But Associated Press reporters observed an uneven application of the rules in different polling stations.

Some had marked off the floor with tape to indicate one-meter spacing; others had no indication and voters bunched up irregularly. Some voters washed their hands before and after casting a ballot, others didn't bother. Staffers reassured voters that they were disinfecting voting booths every hour.

Sunday's elections are the first round of a two-round vote for leadership of all 35,000 French communes. Voters were choosing among lists of candidates running for mayor and town council seats. If no list gets the absolute majority in the first round, all lists that receive more than 10% of votes qualify for the second round.

While most voters cast ballots based on local issues, the elections are an important gauge of public sentiment before France's 2022 presidential election.

Sunday's voting is expected to be a tough challenge for Macron's 3-year-old centrist party, which is competing for the first time in municipal elections and still lacks local roots across France. His government is also unpopular after months of protests from the yellow vest movement economic movement against perceived social injustice, and several weeks of strikes against the government's planned pension overhaul. The conservative Republicans party, the Greens party, the far-right National Rally and the struggling Socialists are also vying for key mayoral seats and to strengthen their nationwide bases.

The main battleground is Paris, whose whose mayor is an influential figure in French politics and will oversee the 2024 Summer Olympics.

Definitive results from the first round were expected late Sunday. □

Associated Press

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Netanyahu rival Gantz chosen to form new Israeli government

By JOSEF FEDERMAN

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli opposition leader Benny Gantz will be given the first opportunity to form a new government after an inconclusive national election this month, the country's president said Sunday, raising questions about Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's political future.

The decision by President Reuven Rivlin was announced by his office after he consulted with leaders of all of the parties elected to parliament. He will formally designate Gantz with the task on Monday and give him a month to cobble together a governing coalition.

The political wrangling comes at a sensitive time. Netanyahu has been leading the country as it confronts a growing coronavirus threat, with over 200 cases diagnosed and the number quickly rising. Netanyahu also faces serious legal troubles as he prepares to go on trial to face corruption charges.

Netanyahu's Likud emerged as the largest party in the March 2 election, Israel's third in under a year. But with his smaller religious and nationalist allies, he received the support of only 58 lawmakers during Sunday's consultations, leaving his right-wing bloc three seats short of the required majority in parliament.

Gantz's Blue and White received the support of parties representing 61 seats, a slim majority. However, those parties are also divided, and it is not clear whether Gantz will succeed in putting together a coalition. One lawmaker refused to endorse either side.

Given the likelihood of continued deadlock, Rivlin late Sunday summoned both Netanyahu and Gantz to an emergency meeting, where the men pledged to explore a unity government.

In a joint statement, both parties thanked Rivlin and said their leaders "agreed for the respective negotiation teams to meet soon."

Rivlin had earlier called for a power-sharing unity government to lead the country through its many crises. Israel has gone through three inconclusive elections in the past year, leaving it with a caretaker government as it confronts a host of challenges, including the coronavirus battle. If the two rivals cannot reach a unity deal, the country could find itself in a fourth consecutive election campaign.

"Anyone who has watched the news in recent days understands that this is a time of trial, and that these are not regular consultations," Rivlin said earlier Sunday. "We must now deal with forming a government as soon as possible ... at this complex time." Rivlin's duties are largely ceremonial. But he is responsible for designating the candidate he thinks has the best chance of forming a government by securing a parliamentary majority.

That usually goes to the leader of the largest party, in this case Netanyahu. But after a slim majority endorsed Gantz on Sunday, Rivlin appeared to have little choice.

Gantz will face a difficult task securing a governing coalition.

The parties that endorsed him have little in common beyond their shared antipathy toward Netanyahu, who has led the country for the past 11 years. They include the predominantly Arab Joint List and the ultra-nationalist Yisrael Beiteinu.

Yisrael Beiteinu's leader, Avigdor Lieberman, and two members of Gantz's own Blue and White party have said they would oppose a government that relies on support from the Joint List. Lieberman told the president that he supports Gantz, but also called for the formation of an "emergency" unity government to deal with the coronavirus threat.

Netanyahu, in his caretaker role, has invited Gantz to join him in an emergency government. Gantz has left the door open to such an arrangement, but also dis-



In this Saturday, March 7, 2020 file photo, Blue and White party leader Benny Gantz delivers a statement in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Associated Press

missed the offers as insincere.

Although Gantz's chances of forming a new government appear slim, receiving the "mandate" from Rivlin could strengthen his position in unity talks with Netanyahu, said Yochanan Plesner, president of the Israel Democracy Institute. During the transition period, Blue and White is expected to name one of its members as speaker of the parliament and to pass legislation that would prevent an indicted politician from forming a new government. That legislation would impede Netanyahu's chances of victory if the country is forced into a fourth election and push him toward compromise.

"Both sides will say that they support unity. You only have one minor question: Who goes first and for how long and so on," said Plesner.

Netanyahu formally extended an offer Sunday to Gantz to join a government aimed at halting the spread of the virus, suggesting two frameworks, in-

cluding one that would see an alternating leadership between them over the course of four years.

Gantz's centrist Blue and White party seems to consider the outreach yet another ruse after what has been an extremely acrimonious campaign that included unfounded smears against Gantz.

Over the past week, the coronavirus scare has overshadowed Israel's precarious political standoff, which comes as Netanyahu prepares to go on trial for corruption charges.

Netanyahu got an important reprieve Sunday when the Jerusalem court handling the case postponed his trial for two months because of restrictions connected to the coronavirus pandemic.

He was scheduled to appear in court Tuesday to face charges of fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes in connection to a series of scandals. But following the emergency health measures the government enacted restricting public gatherings,

the court said it was pushing back the hearing until May 24.

Netanyahu is accused of receiving expensive gifts from wealthy friends and offering to exchange favors with powerful media moguls. The long-ruling Israeli leader denies any wrongdoing.

Much of the country was at a standstill Sunday, with schools, malls and places of entertainment shut down. Employees were encouraged to work from home and strict restrictions have been placed on personal interactions.

The virus has spread to more than 100 countries, infected more than 150,000 people worldwide and killed more than 5,700. In Israel, over 200 people have been infected.

For most people, the coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. □

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Afghan government postpones prisoner release, endangers deal

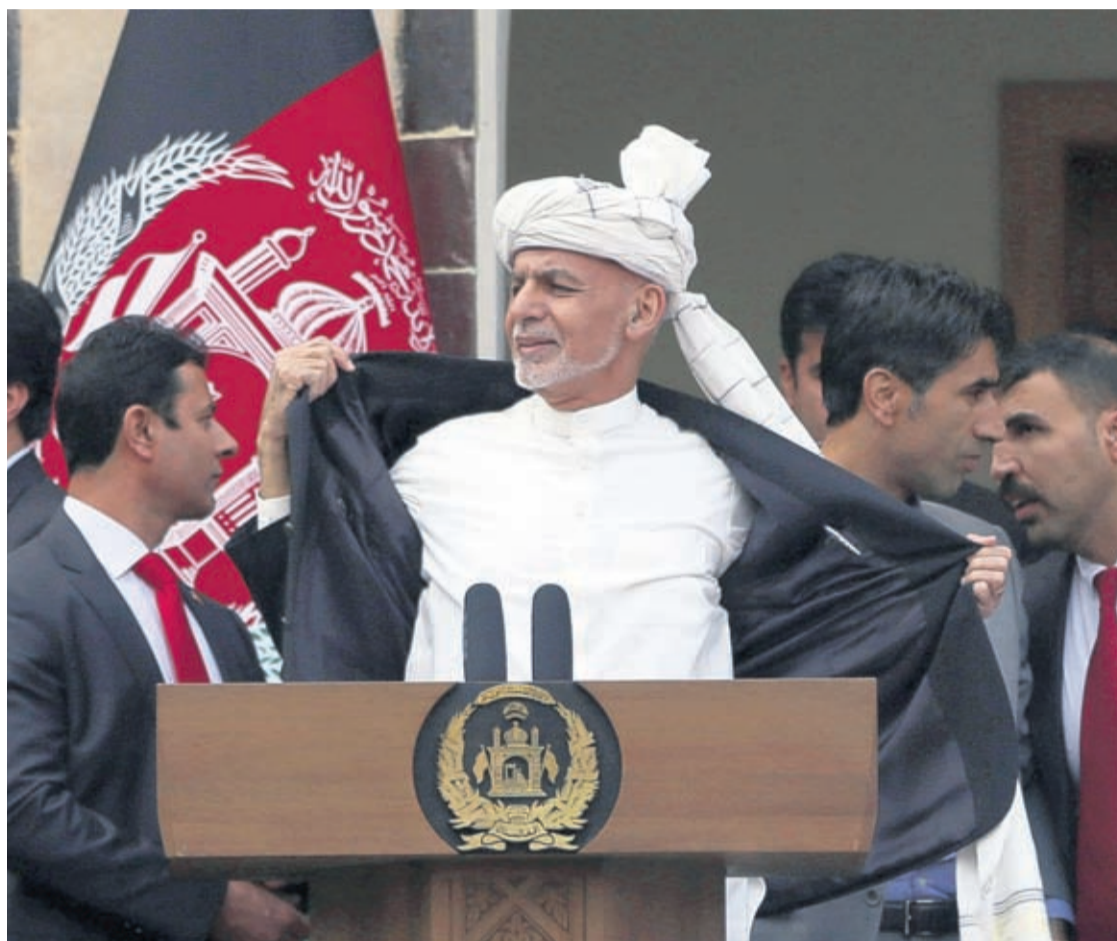
KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The Afghan government Saturday postponed the release of 1,500 Taliban prisoners, an Afghan official said, a decision that could sabotage a peace deal signed last month between the Taliban and the United States.

Jawed Faisal, spokesman for the Afghan National Security Adviser's office, said the releases were being delayed because more time was needed to review the list of prisoners. The move comes despite President Ashraf Ghani's decree earlier this week promising the start of the releases Saturday as a good will gesture to get intra-Afghan negotiations started.

The U.S.-Taliban deal was touted at the time as the best chance at ending Afghanistan's endless wars and bringing U.S. troops home after nearly 19 years. There was no immediate response from the Taliban to the delayed prisoner release.

Faisal said Ghani's government wanted more time to review the list of prisoners. The U.S.-Taliban deal called for the release of up to 5,000 Taliban as well as 1,000 Afghan government captives ahead of intra-Afghan negotiations, considered a critical next step to reaching a lasting peace in Afghanistan.

Ghani's decree promised the release of 100 prisoners a day beginning Saturday until 1,500 prisoners



Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, center, opens his coat after a few rockets are fired during his speech after being sworn, at his inauguration ceremony at the presidential palace in Kabul, Afghanistan, Monday, March 9, 2020.

were released. He would then release the remaining 3,500 after intra-Afghan talks began and those releases would be staggered and would go ahead only if talks progressed and Taliban reduced violence. Although Ghani's decree differs from the U.S.-Taliban deal, Faisal insisted Ghani was committed to releasing 5,000 Taliban prisoners. However, Ghani is embroiled in political turmoil in Kabul, where he is battling his leading political rival

Abdullah Abdullah, who has also declared himself president. Abdullah has so far refused to accept the results of last year's presidential results charging widespread irregularities and abuse of power by Ghani. Still, the national election commission last month declared Ghani the winner despite allegations lodged also by the elections complaints commission. Meanwhile, the decree Ghani announced on

Wednesday said the first round of 1,500 prisoners to be freed would be selected based on age, health and the length of their sentences already served. The released prisoners, who would be biometrically identified, would also have to give a written guarantee that they would not return to the battlefield. The Taliban handed off their list of 5,000 to an American negotiator, who delivered it to the Afghan government administration. The Taliban's spokesman in Qatar, where the insurgent group maintains a political office, said the Taliban would accept only those on the pre-approved list and warned Kabul against offering substitutes. The Taliban said they are committed to the deal they made with the United

States but would not start negotiations with Kabul government or other political leaders until the prisoners were freed.

Even if the Taliban were ready to talk, it's not clear when Kabul would be ready to field a negotiating team as the feud between opposing politicians has yet to be resolved.

The United States has said its withdrawal of troops — which has already begun — was not dependent on successful negotiations between Afghans on both sides of the conflict.

However, the U.S. State Department has issued statements urging Kabul's feuding politicians to find a compromise, urged an end to "posturing" and said many of the Taliban prisoners on the list had already served their sentence and that the names were decided after lengthy negotiations.

Washington also chastised the Taliban for resuming attacks on Afghanistan's security forces, even though they promised not to attack U.S. and NATO troops. Washington said the level of Taliban violence was too high and wanted to see a reduction.

Despite the political chaos in Kabul and increased violence on the battlefield, the United States has started withdrawing its troops in keeping with the deal it signed Feb. 29 with the Taliban. In the first phase, Washington will reduce its troops contingent to 8,600, down from the current 13,000.

If the Taliban adhere to their commitments to deny terrorists safe havens in Afghanistan, Washington will withdraw the remainder of its troops over 14 months, according to the agreement. □



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A woman covers her face with a Brazilian flag during rally supporting Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro on Copacabana beach, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sunday, March 15, 2020.

Associated Press

Bolsonaro backers defy health warnings to stage rallies

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) —

Thousands of Brazilians ignored warnings to avoid mass gatherings and staged demonstrations in favor of President Jair Bolsonaro and against his antagonists in Congress and the Supreme Court on Sunday.

Bolsonaro himself had urged supporters to skip the demonstrations, which had been announced weeks ago, due to the spread of the new coronavirus. But he apparently changed his mind Sunday morning, joining a rally in the capital of Brasilia where he shot selfies and shook hands with demonstrators.

Bolsonaro's office announced on Thursday that tests showed him free of the new virus despite the fact his chief spokesman and other aides have tested positive following a visit to Washington, where they met U.S. President Donald Trump.

"This is priceless, what the people are doing in spite of my recommendation," Bolsonaro said in a Facebook

Live transmission.

"With everything against it — the press, the virus, the recommendations — the people took to the streets. This is spontaneous," the president said.

Many of the protesters in Rio de Janeiro wore medical masks while carrying placards supporting the president.

"The corruption kills a lot more than the virus," said Alisson de Oliveira, 42, though he acknowledged he was worried by the illness. The demonstrations occurred at a time when Bolsonaro is battling with parts of Congress over the federal budget.

So far, Brazil has confirmed more than 170 cases of the new coronavirus.

Authorities in Rio and Sao Paulo on Friday banned mass gatherings and Rio's governor said police would even restrict access to beaches, though they merely looked on as Friday's demonstration occurred and thousands sunned themselves on Copacabana beach. □



Volunteers, left, provide soap and water for participants to wash their hands against the new coronavirus at a women's 5km fun run in the capital Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Sunday, March 15, 2020.

Associated Press

Several African nations roll out measures to fight virus

By MOGOMOTSI MAGOME JOHANNESBURG (AP) —

Several African countries have announced sweeping restrictions to try to contain the steady spread of the coronavirus, which has reached at least 25 of Africa's 54 countries.

South Africa, Kenya, Senegal and Mauritania are among the countries that have imposed travel restrictions and closed schools.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa declared a national state of disaster.

"This is a grave emergency and given the scale and speed of its spread, no country is immune," said Ramaphosa, addressing the nation Sunday night. He said the country has 61 cases, including local transmission of COVID-19, and he expected the number to increase dramatically.

"We must take urgent and drastic measures to reduce

the impact on the health of South Africans and our economy," said Ramaphosa, announcing a ban on the arrival of travelers from countries with the disease including China, Iran, South Korea, Italy, Spain, the United States and Britain.

Ramaphosa said all schools will be closed for 30 days from Wednesday and he banned all public gatherings of more than 100 people. South Africa will close 35 of its 53 land borders and will intensify screening at its international airports.

The decline in international trade and tourism has already negatively affected South Africa's economy, which he said is about to experience demands in expenditure for increased health measures.

Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta announced restrictions preventing travelers coming from countries that

have cases of coronavirus, saying only Kenyan citizens and those with residence permits would be permitted to enter, but would have to self-quarantine for two weeks. He also said all schools in Kenya would close for three weeks.

Senegal and Mauritania have also announced the immediate closure of schools for three weeks. Senegal is also banning all public gatherings for a month and banned cruise ships from docking in Senegal, and suspended Muslim and Christian pilgrimages.

Morocco has suspended flight connections and closed borders with all European countries and many other countries in Africa and the Middle East. Also on Sunday, Ethiopia reported that it has three cases of COVID-19 and the Republic of Congo announced its first case. □

Mexico holds big music festival despite coronavirus concerns

By **BERENICE BAUTISTA**

MEXICO CITY (AP) — While the coronavirus pandemic has led authorities around the globe to cancel concerts and sporting events, and even shut down daily activities in some places, Mexico City is going ahead with Vive Latino — one of the most important music festivals in the country.

Some acts backed out, but tens of thousands of music fans flocked on Saturday to the first day of the festival, which still expected Guns N' Roses, Carlos Vives and Zoe to be among its headliners. Organizers said more than 70,000 tickets had been sold for each of the festival's two days.

Concerns about the new COVID-19 illness were evident, though. At the entrance, the usual security checks for such events had a new filter: Each person entering was checked for fever and a strong smell of antibacterial gel permeated in the air.

But once past that, the dynamics of the festival were not much changed. People walked excitedly toward the various stages and crowded together for the performances.



Thousands cheer the Vive Latino festival in Mexico City, Saturday, March 14, 2020. On Friday afternoon organizers confirmed that the 21st edition of the festival will go on as planned.

Associated Press

Alan Miranda, who was making his first visit to Vive Latino and especially wanted to see The Warning, said he felt many people are overreacting to the potential danger of contagion at large gatherings.

"Because I consider it is more a collective hysteria than any other thing. In Mexico we have a culture of a little bit more of hy-

giene that helps us to limit this kind of transmissions," he said.

Santiago Ayala was accompanied by his wife and his 9-year-old daughter, Regina, who wore a Guns N' Roses T-shirt to her first Vive Latino.

"In the end we thought that at any moment we could catch it here, in the pharmacy in the tortilla line.

We decided to take the risk and come," Ayala said, adding that they brought along antibacterial gel and tissues and didn't plan to push into crowds.

Only a few people showed up wearing masks, such as Daniel Ramirez, who covered his face with a mask decorated with a picture of a fox. He said he suffers from asthma and needs to

be more cautious. He was also using antibacterial gel. He said he trusted the Mexican officials' decision to let the festival go ahead.

"We have to be informed and before panicking you have to read some texts and know that it is serious but we are still in a passable stage," Ramirez said of the outbreak.

Hugo López-Gatell, deputy director of the Health Department, said Friday night that Mexico is still in what is considered phase one of a pandemic, with isolated cases of infections in people who had traveled abroad or in a few cases infected others. Authorities have reported 41 cases across the country.

Almost everyone recovers from the new virus, which often causes only mild symptoms, such as fever and cough. But for some people, particularly older adults and people with pre-existing health problems, it can cause more serious illnesses such as pneumonia. Karina and Saúl, who did not give their last name, were at Vive Latino, but they were not convinced about the wisdom of doing so. □

Guyana leaders accept full recount of presidential election

By **BERT WILKINSON**

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — The government and opposition have agreed to a complete recount of votes in a presidential election marred by complaints of possible fraud in Guyana, a relatively poor nation heading into a new era of oil wealth.

A team from the 15-nation Caribbean Community arrived in the South American nation early Sunday to supervise the recount for the March 2 general election.

The country's electoral commission ruled late Friday that President David Granger had won a second five-year term. But international warnings that the vote might not be seen as valid led Granger a day later to accept a Caricom call for a full recount.



People line up to vote during presidential elections in Georgetown, Guyana, Monday, March. 2, 2020.

Associated Press

Observer groups including the Organization of American States and the Commonwealth questioned the ballot counting process and the U.S. and other western nations have hinted at possible economic sanctions and visa revocations if any

president is sworn in without a valid recount.

Caricom last week sent a team of five prime ministers to try to resolve the conflict. "The president and the opposition have both committed to abide by the results of a fair and transparent

recount of each and every ballot," said Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley, the current Caricom leader who headed the delegation.

The country of fewer than 1 million people faces the prospect that oil revenues in the next decade could make it one of the wealthiest in the hemisphere.

Guyana recently sold its first million barrels to markets in Asia and southern U.S. states. It will get four more shipments this year worth about \$300 million as part of production-sharing arrangements with a consortium led by ExxonMobil, along with Hess Oil of the US and Nexen of China.

Granger, a 74-year-old retired army general, leads a multiparty coalition supported mainly by descen-

dants of Africans brought to Guyana as slaves.

The opposition People's Progressive Party, which led the nation for 23 years until 2015, is supported mostly by Guyanese of East Indian descent brought to Guyana as indentured servants. With political tensions running high, some stores and banks in the capital of Georgetown and coastal areas opened for only half a day, sending home their staff early. Some also put up plywood sheets and metal shutters over windows in case of trouble.

Police have not reported any street protests since a teenager was shot and killed more than a week ago in an eastern coastal village while allegedly attacking an officer with a machete. □

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Continued from front

The hospitality industry is already suffering the consequences of the crises and this will only increase from now on. Aruba's main economic pillar is tourism meaning that the effects of the measure will hit hard but are necessary. The decision is to prioritize containment of the COVID-19 virus and "flatten the curve", especially considering Aruba has a small hospital. The Prime Minister explains the necessity to take these drastic measures in order to

recover faster on the long term. They emphasize for everyone to continue taking precautionary measures, including "social distancing". And a request to employers to reduce/eliminate groupings of people and allow people to work from home, if possible.

Monday, March 9, GOA declared the COVID-19 crisis a national emergency. Flights from risk areas were restricted followed by a ban for European flights on Friday, March 13 leading up to today's lockdown. ☐



Measures to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus COVID-19

- Wash your hands
- Cough and sneeze into your elbow
- Use paper tissues
- Don't shake hands

By coughing and sneezing, a person transmits the virus through his nose, throat or lungs. The virus gets into the air through small droplets. If other people inhale these droplets or transfer them via their hands in their mouth, nose or eyes, for example, they can become infected with the virus.

What you can do to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Wash your hands with soap regularly
- Cough and sneeze on the inside of your elbow
- Use paper tissues
- No handshaking
- Stay at home with symptoms of the common cold or flu
- Limit social contacts



Hotel Hustle

Column by: Shanella Pantophlet

Life in the time of corona

ORANJESTAD — There is a lot happening in the world right now with the coronavirus spreading and though we may do our best to avoid or prevent it, there will be cases in Aruba. So far there have been at least 2 confirmed cases and there may be more in the days to come. Obviously as an island that relies on tourism as our main economic structure, this will have a significant impact on the Island in the months to come.





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It's not the first time we've had to deal with these types of issues. H1N1, SARS, MERS, etc. have all been threats before, but nothing on the scale of Covid-19 as far as its impact on global travel. I think something that most people don't realize is that as an island dependent on tourism, we watch closely what's happening in the world and do our best to make all the necessary precautions. Since we heard about Covid-19 and its rapid spread rate all hotels have been making preparations to secure our survival.

Survival is a scary word, but we have to be realistic, with all the travel restrictions and the affected age group being Aruba's usual demographic, we are expecting our tourism numbers to drop off significantly in the days and weeks ahead. Plans have to be in place to secure the safety of our guests, our staff and by extension our relatives. Aruba Day, to the displeasure of many has been cancelled, schools are closing and I'm sure every hotel that still has guests coming in, has signs up restricting physical contact. In transient hotels the physical contact policy might not be a big deal, but in a timeshare where employees tend to treat guests as part of their family, it's a policy that takes away that familiarity. It won't be forever, but it is what's needed now, difficult as it may be.

We will have a financial downturn and we are all hopefully prepared for that. The slew of cancellations will mean probably slashing hours, providing employees with extra vacation time and a strict control over our budgets. The measures may be draconian, but until there is stabilization or a cure found for this virus, we need to take every step we can to stay afloat and make sure our staff doesn't suffer in the process.

Like most other places, the crisis has shown up before the virus.

Continued on Page 15

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- Shalom Body & Soul Spa

Coming Soon: The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood and Shalom Hair & Nail Bar

Life in the time of corona

Continued from Page 14

Every image on the news both locally and internationally shows lines of people in stores, trying to hoard supplies and resources and I know these times can be anxiety inducing, but on an island with limited resources we should ensure that our neighbors are also allowed to safeguard themselves. One of the most important things to remember during this time though is that we are all humans and we are all part of a larger community.

Just remember soap is the best way to combat corona and if you're on vacation then just relax, because we're going to make sure you still have the best vacation ever. ☐



Aruban born and bred Shanella Pantophlet is passionate about tourism. That is the world she studied and works in, so we might as well call her a specialist. Luckily for Aruba Today Shanella also loves to write. And together with the fact that the majority of our readers are tourists, we found ourselves a perfect combination for a column: Hotel Hustle.

Aruba to Me



ORANJESTAD – Aruba (arubatoday.com)

Aruba Today likes to welcome readers to participate in our newspaper. You can see that in our Honored Guest-publications, specials like on Valentine's Day and on other occasions. Throughout the year you are always welcome to send us your vacation picture(s) together with completing the sentence: Aruba to me is (Email: news@

For today's newspaper we received a great picture from Roger and Jacqueline Meyer from Amstelveen, the Netherlands. They wrote: "Aruba to us is looking forward all year in meeting up with old friends."

Picture taken at the Kini Kini Poolbar of La Quinta Beach Resort. ☐

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Two couples honored as Goodwill Ambassadors



EAGLE BEACH — Recently, Kimberley Richardson of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The symbolic Goodwill Ambassador certificate is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba 20 years and more consecutively.

The honorees were couple Max & Inna Ioffe from New Jersey together with couple Albert & Rita Fries from Philadelphia.

This lovely group of people stated that they love the island very much, especially for its year-round sunny weather, nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets, delicious variety of foods, and Aruba's warm and friendly people.

Richardson together with the representatives of the La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino presented the certificates to the honorees, handed over some presents and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □

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- Thursday at 8:00pm: Circus Night
- Friday at 8:00pm: Caribbean Night
- Saturday at 8:00pm: Violin Night
- Sunday at 8:00pm: Aruba Has Talent
- Every night at 7:30pm 8:30pm 9:30pm: Liquid Firework Show

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Thank you for your understanding, stay safe!

Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino presents 'Evolution': Raise the curtain on a culinary cabaret

ORANJESTAD —Diego Lemasson, Beverage & Food Director at the Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino is proud to announce a once-in-a-lifetime culinary experience coming up at the resort. The exclusive dinner has a very limited capacity of 20 covers and will be a completely different concept than the regular upscale wine pairing dinners. This 'Evolution' will sweep you off your feet in all senses: taste, sight, hearing and touch. Make sure you are part of this sensation!

The Stage

Friday March 20 and Saturday March 21 a part of the Renaissance Convention Center will be transformed into another dimension. Imagine a night filled with quality when it comes to food, drinks, entertainment and setting. A night full of surprises that will tantalize your senses. A night where you will be seated on a sliding table that moves the food in front of you and the curtain of this culinary cabaret will be drawn to show you another world. "Besides the impeccable food and wines, entertainment will be an important part of this out-of-the-box concept," says Lemasson.

The Spectacle

The director explains that this will not be a standard upgraded dinner, it is much more. "Rather a full experience where many other things happen. The moment you arrive you will be taken on a journey and you do not really know what to expect, it will be a surprise. We try to promote it as basic as we can. We do understand that some guests wish to have some revelations so we informed that the theme will be around the four seasons; winter, spring, summer and fall." The menu will be available in front but we recommend people not even to look at it and let themselves be surprised, he continues. "Be open to dive into the experience. Enjoy an upscale evening full of surprises. Come with an open mind willing to try new things. It will captivate you!"

The Players

This event is set up in partnership with wine wholesaler Pepia Est. Some of the exclusive wines presented on the evening will be Perrier Jouët Grand Brut Champagne, France, Rombauer Merlot Napa Valley California, USA and Taylor Fladgate 20yo Port, Portugal. "We are already six months in preparation and have about 40 people working on it, says Lemasson who is in charge of all the operations of the resort including all the bars and restaurants, convention center, casinos, beverage operations and private island. "All the fun parts of the hotel," he jokes. He has close to 400 people under his wings. "Spe-

cial events is what Renaissance is known for. We did some pop-up dinners with themes and have the Rose All Day lunch as well as the Bartenders Brawl, all growing events. Now we are focusing on an elevated event which will be 'Evolution'. On the long-term we wish this to be a yearly event to look forward to."

Join the Evolution

The event includes a 4-course menu with wine pairing. One of the managers will contact the guests in advance to gather information about for example special diet requests, dress code is elegant. Reservations can be done by calling +297 5976130. □



WEEKLY HAPPENINGS



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\$1 Wings All Day Long

THROWBACK THURSDAY
\$5 TBT Cocktails & \$10 Snack Platter

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2 for 1 Balashi Beer & Live Band 9pm-12am

STATE OF MIND SATURDAY
\$5 on Specialty Cocktails, \$6 Beef Taco's & \$8 Nachos

CHILL DOWN SUNDAY
2 for 1 Chill Beer

HAPPY HOURS

SAT-THU 5-6PM & 10-11PM
FRIDAY 5-7PM & 10-11PM

\$4 BALASHI & CHILL DRAFT

\$5 HOUSE WINES

\$5 SELECTION OF MARGARITAS AND COCKTAILS



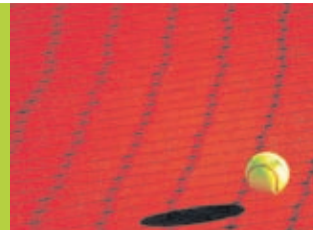




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SPORTS



CDC's latest guidance could mean no sports for much longer

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

The already-delayed professional sports seasons in North America could be on hiatus for significantly longer than first planned after federal officials said Sunday that they recommend all in-person events involving 50 people or more be called off for the next eight weeks.

That's twice as long as the 30-day shutdowns that the NBA, NHL and Major League Soccer decided to put into place last week in response to the global coronavirus pandemic that has already made a deep impact on the U.S. financial markets and has been blamed for at least 64 deaths in this country.

Major League Baseball also was going with what essentially was a 30-day shutdown after canceling the rest of spring training and pushing back the start of regular season play for two weeks; opening day was to have been March 26.

But new recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Sunday night seem to suggest that sports in this country could for all intents and purposes be gone until May, if not later.

"CDC, in accordance with its guidance for large events and mass gatherings, recommends that for the next 8 weeks, organizers ... cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more throughout the United States," it said.

Continued on page23

STAYING PUTT

McIlroy, Koepka reject joining proposed new tour

Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland, hits from the fifth fairway, during the first round of The Players Championship golf tournament Thursday, March 12, 2020 in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Associated Press
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Rick Pitino returns to college basketball as Iona coach

NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y. (AP)

— Hall of Famer Rick Pitino was named basketball coach at Iona College on Saturday.

Pitino coached at Louisville from 2001-17 before being fired in a pay-for-play scandal and had been coaching in Greece. He replaces Tim Cluess, who resigned Friday due to health concerns after 10 years and six NCAA Tournament appearances.

"My passion in basketball started in New York and will end there at Iona College," Pitino said in a statement released by the Catholic school located north of New York City in suburban Westchester County that has an undergraduate enrollment of 3,300 students.

"Tim Cluess has done a spectacular job creating success and a winning spirit," Pitino added. "At Iona, I will work with the same passion, hunger and drive that I've had for over 40 years."

The 67-year-old Pitino has a 770-271 overall record in college and became the first coach to take three different schools to the Final Four. He won national championships at Louisville (2013) and Kentucky (1996) and also went to the Final Four with Providence in 1987. Pitino coached twice in the NBA, with the New York Knicks (1987-89) and the Boston Celtics (1997-2001), where he was also team president.

Last June, Pitino coached Panathinaikos to the championship in the Greek League. Iona President Seamus Carey said "after a thorough interview process we are confident that Rick's experience and commitment to Iona and our community make him the right person to continue to build on Tim Cluess' success."

Pitino's return to college basketball comes nearly six months after he and Louisville settled lawsuits stemming from his departure in the wake of a federal investigation of corruption in college basketball.

The coach had sued the University of Louisville Athletic Association for more than \$38.7 million in November 2017, alleging it breached its contract by firing him for cause the previous month. The school had countersued and sought monetary damages for vacated games and bonuses. Pitino received no money in the settlement, with his personnel file changing from termination to a resignation effective 13 days before he was fired.

The settlement closed a bit-

ter final chapter between the school and Pitino, who wasn't named in the federal complaint. He repeatedly said he knew nothing about payments made to the family of a recruit to sign with Louisville.

The school's acknowledgement of its involvement in the federal investigation occurred as it appealed NCAA sanctions that cost Louisville its 2013 national championship.

In that case, the governing body ordered the vacation of 123 victories, including the Cardinals' third national title and their 2012 Final Four appearance, following an escort's book allegations that former Louisville men's basketball staffer Andre McGee hired her and other dancers to strip and



In this Feb. 21, 2018, file photo, former Louisville basketball coach Rick Pitino appears during a news conference in New York.

Associated Press

have sex with players and recruits.

Pitino said he was unaware of any of the activities described in the book. While Louisville reiterated in a joint settlement statement

that infractions under his watch led to "serious consequences" for the school, it acknowledged Pitino's success and commitment to his players and thanked him for his service. □

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Associated Press

Titans agree to four-year extension with QB Ryan Tannehill

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The Tennessee Titans are keeping the quarterback that led them within a victory of the Super Bowl, agreeing to a four-year, \$118 million extension with Ryan Tannehill. The Titans announced the deal Sunday, hours after the NFL Players Association approved a new collective

bargaining agreement. "Tennessee let's run it back," Tannehill wrote on Twitter. After being traded by Miami to Tennessee last March, Tannehill went 9-4 overall as a starter, 7-3 over the final 10 games of the regular season after the Titans benched Marcus Mariota in mid-October. Tannehill led the NFL with

a career-best 117.5 passer rating, the fourth highest in NFL history and a franchise best.

Tannehill threw for 2,742 yards with 22 touchdowns and six interceptions during the regular season. His 9.6 yards per attempt also led the league as another team record. He also set a team mark for completion percentage, completing 70.3% of his passes for third overall in the NFL. He also ran for 185 yards with four TDs on 43 carries.

He helped lead the Titans to their first AFC championship appearance in 17 years as the No. 6 seed with road wins at New England and Baltimore. They lost 35-24 at Kansas City one win short of the Super Bowl.

Tannehill earned his first Pro Bowl nod and was The Associated Press NFL Comeback Player of the Year.

This extension now allows the Titans to either franchise tag NFL rushing leader Derrick Henry or sign him to an extension.

Henry led the league with 1,540 yards on 303 carries and became the first in the NFL to run for at least 180 yards in three straight games over the regular season or postseason. Henry had seven 100-yard games over his final nine games, and he ranks third in NFL history averaging 126 yards rushing for his career in the playoffs.

The Titans cleared up more salary cap space by waiving linebacker Cameron Wake and running back Dion Lewis on Thursday before waiving three-time Pro Bowl tight end Delanie Walker and kicker Ryan Succop on Friday. Spotrac.com projected the Titans with having more than \$63 million in salary cap space after those moves.

Keeping Tannehill certainly helps their prospects. But the Titans still have right tackle Jack Conklin and cornerback Logan Ryan among the handful of players hitting free agency when the new league year begins, currently scheduled for Wednesday. □



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NFL players approve labor deal, including 17-game season

By **BARRY WILNER**
AP Pro Football Writer

By a close vote, with some 500 union members not participating, NFL players approved a new labor agreement with the league. It features a 17-game regular season, higher salaries, increased roster sizes and larger pensions for current and former players.

The deal, which runs through the 2030 season, was accepted by the 32 team owners last month. The NFL Players Association's membership spent the last week voting on the 439-page document after its executive board narrowly rejected it by a 6-5 vote, and the player representatives voted 17-14 in favor, with one abstention.

Clearly, there was some strong player opposition to this collective bargaining agreement, though. Many stars, including Aaron Rodgers, Russell Wilson, J.J. Watt and Todd Gurley, spoke out against it. The total vote, among the nearly 2,500 union members who participated, was 1,019-959. Ratification required a simple majority — results were announced Sunday — and there could be lasting resentment among union members, given how close the vote was.

"Can't believe we agreed to that lol," Colts tight end Eric Ebron tweeted. "We can only play this game for so long and y'all didn't want everything we could get out of it? ... 2030 y'all do better."

Ravens cornerback Marlon Humphrey expressed displeasure about the turnout for voting.

"Around 500 players didn't even vote on the new CBA ...," he tweeted. "It's good and bad to this deal. I could see why anyone would vote either way. I just think it's amazing guys don't even care."

Almost immediately, players were urging unity, particularly in the face of the criticism from within their ranks about approving the deal.

"The democratic process has played itself out," tweeted Eagles safety

Malcolm Jenkins, one of the most influential voices in the union. "We must be committed to unifying our current and former members. While I don't agree with the decision because of its negative impacts on some current and former players, I do respect our process and will push forward accordingly."

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, not surprisingly, praised the players' acceptance of the new CBA.

"We are pleased that the players have voted to ratify the proposed new CBA, which will provide substantial benefits to all current and retired players, increase jobs, ensure continued progress on player safety, and give our fans more and better football," Goodell said in a statement.

"We appreciate the tireless efforts of the members of the Management Council Executive Committee and the NFLPA leadership, both of whom devoted nearly a year to detailed, good faith negotiations to reach this comprehensive, transformative agreement."

After discussions with the union during the day, the NFL sent a memo to all teams Sunday night that the league will open the 2020 NFL business season on Wednesday, as scheduled, with free agency and trades. A delay had been considered a possibility given league restrictions on travel as a safeguard against the new coronavirus. There was no immediate word on timing and potential format changes for the draft, scheduled for Las Vegas from April 23-25, something that was also expected to be discussed by the NFL and NFLPA.

A 17-game schedule won't happen before the 2021 season. The mechanics for an uneven number of games — neutral sites or which teams get nine home games — will be worked out in the interim.

Extending the season was a nonissue with the players in 2011, when the current 10-year deal was finalized after a 4 1/2 month lockout. It has upset many of them



In a Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020 file photo, Eric Winston, president of the NFL Players Association, speaks at the annual state of the NFLPA press conference, in Miami Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

as it will become a reality in another season or so. Jaguars receiver Chris Conley posted his objections to a variety of items.

"Players voted for a 17-game season," he said on Instagram. "No extra bye week. A disproportionate pay increase that will be less than promised because of the growth of the leagues revenue. No resolved player restrictions or tags. Added mandatory fines for hold outs that take an accrued season from veteran players. On top of that this CBA cut benefits for some players in shaky medical condition. The worst part is that 500 people didn't vote. We look like a weak union to the owners and for this reason they will continue to try to low ball and take advantage of players rights."

Earlier, NFLPA Executive Director DeMaurice Smith explained the ins and outs of negotiating the new deal in a lengthy "open letter" tweet after the voting had concluded Saturday night.

"The current proposal contains increases across almost every category of wages, hours, working conditions and benefits for for-

mer and current players," he said. "Like any contested negotiation ... the proposal also reflects trades with the counterparty which have to be carefully weighed and assessed across the entirety of the deal. Please be confident that I hear — loudly and clearly — those of you who have passionately expressed their perspective that these gains are not enough when weighed against, for example, adding another game. That position reflects how some members have chosen to weigh what aspect of the deal is important to them. "The fact is, however, that there are literally hundreds of issues in any collective bargaining agreement that affect thousands of circumstances and impact thousands of current and former players which we must consider carefully." The gains the players make in the new agreement in sharing "a bigger portion of the growing pie," according to outgoing NFLPA President Eric Winston, swayed the vote.

Among those gains:

—An increase from the 47% of league revenues given to the players, with that

percentage dependent on the length of the season.

—A reduction of the pre-season, initially from four games to three. More time off during training camps.

—Upgraded pensions, with the addition of groups of previous players not included in past agreements.

—Two more roster spots per team's practice squad, with players having more freedom to move up to the regular roster and back. Two more will be added later in the agreement.

—Narrowing the testing period for players for marijuana use, plus lowered discipline for using it; and a reduction in on-field fines.

Adding two playoff teams was not part of the bargaining process, but the owners were able to do so without union approval. That will occur this season, with only the top team in each conference getting a wild-card bye.

With labor peace for the rest of the decade, the NFL now will turn to negotiating new deals with its broadcast partners. Results of that, including digital media, should, as Winston mentioned, substantially grow the financial pie. □

Brooks Koepka says he won't be joining Premier Golf League

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP Golf Writer

Brooks Koepka said Sunday he has no interest in the Premier Golf League, another setback to a league promising guaranteed money and a team concept that now is missing some of golf's biggest young stars.

"I am out of the PGL. I'm going with the PGA Tour," Koepka told The Associated Press. "I have a hard time believing golf should be about just 48 players."

Later Sunday, Golfweek reported that world No. 2 Jon Rahm said he will not join, meaning the world's top three players are sticking with the PGA Tour.

Rory McIlroy, who replaced Koepka at No. 1 in the world a month ago, said last month in Mexico City that he was not interested in the new league. He said he valued his freedom to decide when and where to play instead of the proposed schedule of 18 tournaments, not including the majors.

Koepka said he made up his mind after meeting with organizers in Los Angeles a month ago during the Genesis Invitational, wanting to wait for a time when any announcement would not become a distraction.



Brooks Koepka hits to the 16th green during a practice round for The Players Championship golf tournament Wednesday, March 11, 2020, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

He had said at the start of the Florida swing only that "I want to play against the best."

With golf shutting down over concerns about the new coronavirus, he wanted it made clear he wasn't going anywhere.

Koepka, now No. 3 in the world, and McIlroy cited the freedom he enjoys on the PGA Tour. Koepka also spoke about the majority of the PGA Tour who he fears would be left out if all the attention was heaped on

top stars competing in a team format.

"I get that the stars are what people come to see," Koepka said. "But these guys who we see win, who have been grinding for 10 or 15 years, that's what makes the cool stories. I'd have a hard time looking at guys and putting them out of a job."

Koepka speaks from experience. Having failed to advance past the second stage of PGA Tour qualifying in 2012, he played

remote spots on the Challenge Tour, earned a European Tour card and eventually made it to the PGA Tour, where he won his first tournament in early 2015. He and McIlroy each have four majors. "I don't forget where I've come from," Koepka said. "There are guys from that top 125 who could be the next star."

PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan made it clear in a memo to players in late January, as six years of chatter about the league

began to gain momentum, that PGA Tour members could not play both.

Monahan and the tour staff have been making the rounds over the last month, meeting with top players to get a feel for their position and to tout what the tour has going. The PGA Tour announced last month a media rights deal said to be worth a little more than \$7 billion over the next nine years. Monahan said last week he could see The Players Championship prize money going to \$25 million, and the postseason bonus pool topping \$100 million.

"Jay is incredible, the direction he has the tour going," Koepka said.

Golfweek said it spoke to Rahm on Thursday and quoted him saying, "I think what I'm going to do is focus on just the PGA Tour. At the end of the day I'm a competitor. I'm a PGA Tour member and I'm going to stay that way."

The concept of the league was to invigorate golf by putting together 12 four-man teams that would be required to play 18 events — 10 of them in the U.S. — that feature 54 holes, no cut and a shotgun start to fit a five-hour broadcast window. □



Richie Diehl arrives in Ruby, Alaska, Friday morning, March 13, 2020, during the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

Associated Press

By **MARK THIESSEN**

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — Deep snow is slowing down mushers in the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, but the leader has a secret for dealing with the difficult conditions.

"I've been training with 120 pounds of concrete and

all the gear in the sled," Thomas Waerner, 46, told a camera crew from the Iditarod Insider as he was preparing his sled to leave a checkpoint outside the Alaska community of Kaltag late Saturday.

"That's perfect for these kind of conditions," he said.

Norwegian musher takes lead in Iditarod as finish nears

Waerner, a native of England living in Norway, was first to arrive at the next checkpoint — Unalakleet — on Sunday.

He said he's not worried about other mushers or making a mistake in the world's most famous sled dog race.

"I feel I just will continue what I'm doing, and that's driving the team, looking at them and keeping my eye on the mental part of it," Waerner said, adding that his dogs have been upbeat since the race started a week ago.

"The physical, I don't have to worry about it, but when I see them going down

mentally, that's when you have to rest," he said. "But they haven't been down yet, so I've been lucky."

The checkpoint in Kaltag is normally at a community hall, but this year it was set up outside the village of about 235 people, 629 miles (1,012 kilometers) into the nearly 1,000-mile (1,609-kilometer) race across Alaska.

The Iditarod, in consultation with community leaders, decided to bypass Kaltag over fears of the coronavirus. Similar precautions were made in the village of Nulato, where the checkpoint was moved from the village to the Yukon River.

The race is continuing, but officials have urged fans not to fly to watch the finish, especially those from outside Alaska. The winner is expected in the Bering Sea community of Nome sometime this week. Most public buildings in Nome have been closed to try to protect against the virus, and post-race activities like the musher's banquet have been postponed.

The race started March 8 in Willow for 57 mushers, but six have since withdrawn. The latest to leave the race were Canadian rookie Martin Massicotte and veteran Alaska musher Linwood Fiedler. □



Team Bora Hansgrohe's Maximilian Schachmann, of Germany, celebrates on the podium of the seventh and final stage of the Paris Nice cycling race after winning the overall leaders jersey. Associated Press

Schachmann wins Paris-Nice held amid coronavirus outbreak

VALDEBLORE-LA COLMIANE, France (AP) — German cyclist Maximilian Schachmann won the Paris-Nice race on Saturday in a rare case of a sporting event still going ahead amid the coronavirus pandemic. While France's soccer and rugby leagues scrapped their matches indefinitely on a hectic Friday — amid cancellations around the world — organizers maintained one of cycling's biggest stage races. They only shortened it by scrapping Sunday's traditional last stage into the southern city of Nice. Schachmann led overnight by 36 seconds from Belgian rider Tiesj Benoot heading into the hilly 166.5-kilometer seventh stage, ending with a steep Category 1 climb to Valdeblore-La Colmiane.

With about 4 kilometers (2.5 miles) left, Nairo Quintana moved out of the leading group of a dozen riders and launched a strong attack which the punchy Colombian is well known for. He was quickly caught, but his next attack was more successful and he won the stage by 46 seconds ahead of Benoot.

Benoot attacked just before the last kilometer as he tried to make up the gap to Schachmann. But the exhausted German held on and then lay on his back after crossing the finish line in sixth place to win the race for the first time.

Schachmann is the first German to win Paris-Nice since Tony Martin in 2011.

"It was very, very hard. The last three kilometers were a walk through hell, through pain. Now it's like being in heaven and it erases all the pain in my legs," he said.

For Schachmann, the win proved he had what it takes to compete in big stage races.

"It's not my first success but the biggest so far and the most important because a whole lot of people doubted that I could be a GC (General Classification) rider," Schachmann said. "Now I won the most prestigious one-week race."

Benoot was 18 seconds behind overall, while Colombian Sergio Higuita finished third and former Tour de France champion Vincenzo Nibali was fourth.

Pockets of fans were lining sections of the final climb to encourage Quintana and the other riders.

"I always try to win stages with some elegance," Quintana said. "I wanted to win (a stage) to bring a little joy to this team (Arkea-Samsic), and this is a gift for the whole team for the job done. Now I'm going to go back to Colombia to stay with my family."

Quintana is a climbing specialist who has won the Giro d'Italia and finished runner-up at the showcase Tour, the three-week major race which is scheduled to start on June 27. □



Mike Lemcke, from Richmond, Va., sits in an empty Greensboro Coliseum after the NCAA college basketball games were cancelled at the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament in Greensboro, N.C., Thursday, March 12, 2020. Associated Press

Continued from page 18

"Events of any size should only be continued if they can be carried out with adherence to guidelines for protecting vulnerable populations, hand hygiene, and social distancing."

The eight-week window easily exceeds what would have been the remainder of the NBA and NHL regular seasons, plus would cover about the first 25% of the MLB season — or roughly 40 games per team. It would also cast serious doubt on the ability to hold other major U.S. sporting events as planned, such as the Kentucky Derby in early May.

The NBA was already bracing to play games without fans in arenas, something that would have started late last week had a player — Rudy Gobert of the Utah Jazz — not tested positive for the virus, COVID-19. Utah teammate Donovan Mitchell and Detroit's Christian Wood have tested positive since, but Gobert's diagnosis was enough for the league to say that it was suspending play.

"I've been feeling a little better every single day," Gobert said in a video posted Sunday. He added, "I wish I would have took this thing more seriously."

The NBA has already been asking teams to share availability for their arenas through the end of July, a sign that the league is prepared to extend the season at least that long if necessary — and those moves

came a couple of days before the CDC made its latest recommendation. The NBA regular season was to have ended April 15 and the NBA Finals were to have started June 4, with the season done on or before June 21.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia.

The vast majority of people recover from the new virus. According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover. In mainland China, where the virus first exploded, more than 80,000 people have been diagnosed and more than 58,000 have so far recovered.

It's not just the team sports that have been shut down: Pro tennis and golf have basically been called off for the next several weeks, with such marquee events as Indian Wells and the Miami Open in tennis and The Players Championship and Masters in golf either canceled or postponed. The NCAA men's Division I college basketball tournament — March Madness — was to release its bracket Sunday and start the

now-canceled 68-team tournament Tuesday. The women's Division I tournament was to have started this week. They've all been called off, as have all other winter- and spring-sport seasons at all levels of the NCAA. Most high school state associations have also had to cancel seasons and championships as well. Some minor-league hockey leagues have canceled seasons, and it seems increasingly unlikely that the G League — the NBA's minor league — will resume play this season.

Even a polo match in South Florida on Sunday was played without fans or reporters present, with organizers saying they needed to take ultimate precautions.

Some NBA players were spending Sunday at home playing video games; Miami's Goran Dragic posted a video of himself outside his house kicking a soccer ball around. Others, like Golden State's Stephen Curry, were urging their fans to continue taking the pandemic seriously.

"We all have to take responsibility for ourselves and do whatever it takes to #stopthespread," Curry told his 14.1 million followers on Twitter. "There's a sense of urgency to flatten the curve and give ourselves and the healthcare system the best chance to get through this pandemic. Share this message and let's protect each other!" □

U.S. internet well-equipped to handle work from home surge

By **FRANK BAJAK**
AP Technology Writer

BOSTON (AP) — The U.S. internet won't get overloaded by spikes in traffic from the millions of Americans now working from home to discourage the spread of the new coronavirus, experts say. But connections could stumble for many if too many family members try to videoconference at the same time.

Some may have to settle for audio, which is much less demanding of bandwidth.

Separately, Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia on Saturday applauded announcements by several major U.S. internet providers for taking temporary measures — including the suspension of data caps, free public Wi-Fi and free broadband for households with children who lack it — designed to better accommodate remote access for students, workers and public health officials. He and 17 other colleagues, Democrats and independents, had called for such measures in a letter Thursday to CEOs of AT&T, Charter, Comcast, Cox, Verizon, CenturyLink, Sprint and T-Mobile.

The core of the U.S. network is more than capable of handling the virus-related surge in demand because it has evolved to be able to easily handle bandwidth-



This June 19, 2017 file photo shows a person working on a laptop in North Andover, Mass.

Associated Press

greedy Netflix, YouTube and other streaming services.

"The core of the network is massively over-provisioned," said Paul Vixie, CEO of Farsight Security and an internet pioneer who helped design its domain naming system.

But if parents are videoconferencing for work at the same time college and high school students are trying to beam into school, they could experience congestion. Figure a packet-dropping threshold of five or more users. That's

because the so-called last mile is for most Americans provisioned for cable — download capacity is robust but upload limited. Fiber optic connections don't have the same issues and will do fine.

Italy's internet saw a 30% spike in peak-hour traffic early this past week after the government sent everyone home into isolation, said Matthew Prince, CEO of Cloudflare, which shapes and secures internet traffic for websites, more than 10% of which sit behind its network.

Prince said in an interview Friday that Cloudflare saw no evidence, however, that the Italian internet has gotten any slower. World Cup soccer matches have posed a greater burden. Peak internet usage times in nations where work has shifted from the office to home due to COVID-19 have also shifted — from about dinner time to about 11 a.m. Prince says it happened in Italy and South Korea and expects the same in the U.S.

Traffic has spiked 10% to 20% during peak hours

since the first week of February in greater Seattle, the U.S. metropolitan region hardest-hit by COVID-19, according to Cloudflare.

The sudden, unanticipated surge in millions of remote workers has forced companies to scramble to boost their capacity for secure connections through virtual private networks, said Patrick Sullivan, chief technical officer for security at Akamai, a major IT provider for business and government.

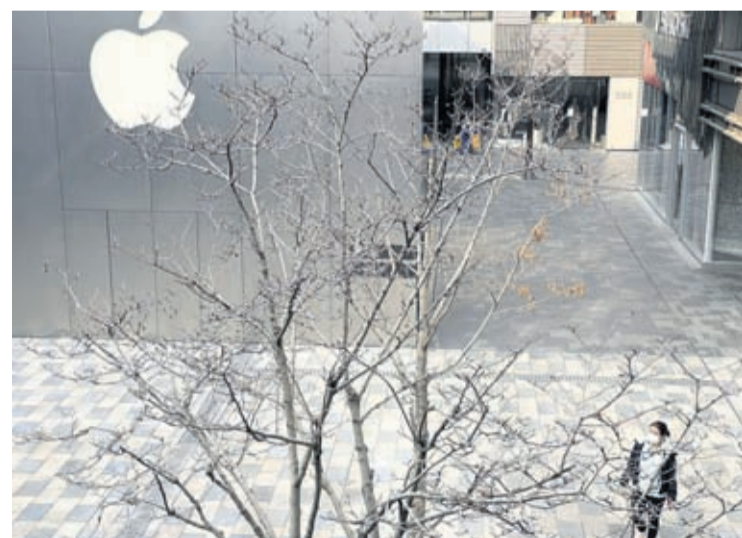
The surge is creating some temporary bottlenecks. But because so much of computing has moved to cloud services, the shift doesn't pose much of an on-site burden for companies, said Sullivan, with bottlenecks typically cleared in minutes or hours.

But some conference calling and chat services have been overwhelmed.

A call-in press conference arranged by Oregon Gov. Kate Brown's office on Friday crashed twice because of the high volume of callers to the AT&T teleconferencing center.

Brown's office said in a news release that the cause was the large number of people using the tele-meeting call center and that "similar issues and demand are being reported across the country."

The conference call worked the third time. □



A woman wearing mask walks past the Apple store in an empty mall district in Beijing, China on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020.

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Tech giant Apple is closing its stores outside of China for two weeks and will only sell online as part of efforts to fight

the global viral pandemic. "In our workplaces and communities, we must do all we can to prevent the spread of COVID-19," CEO

Apple temporarily shuts stores worldwide to fight virus

Tim Cook tweeted Saturday. "Apple will be temporarily closing all stores outside of Greater China until March 27 and committing \$15M to help with worldwide recovery."

In a lengthier online statement, Cook said that Apple's stores in China have all now reopened and what the company has learned there has helped it develop "best practices that are assisting enormously in our global response."

One of the lessons Apple learned in China is that "the most effective way to mini-

mize risk of the virus's transmission is to reduce density and maximize social distance," he said. That's why the company is taking new steps to protect workers and customers as the infection rate rises in other places.

Apple's online stores remain open. Workers will continue to be paid and office staff will work remotely if possible, Cook said in the statement issued Friday.

The iPhone maker has more than 500 retail stores worldwide, with about half in the United States. The com-

pany temporarily shut its 42 stores in mainland China at the height of the country's outbreak. It said last month it wouldn't meet its second-quarter financial guidance because of reduced demand and production of iPhones in China.

The announcement came hours after Apple said its annual Worldwide Developers Conference would take place entirely online this year. Thousands of engineers and customers attend the event in San Jose, California, which is in its 31st year. □

Fed takes emergency steps to slash rates and ease bank rules

By **CHRISTOPHER RUGABER**
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve took emergency action Sunday to help the economy withstand the coronavirus by slashing its benchmark interest rate to near zero and saying it would buy \$700 billion in Treasury and mortgage bonds.

The Fed's surprise announcement signaled its concern that the viral outbreak will depress economic growth in the coming months and that it's prepared to do whatever it can counter the risks. It said it would keep its key rate at a range between zero and 0.25% until it feels confident that the economy can survive what's become a sudden near-shutdown of economic activity in the United States.

The central bank will buy \$500 billion of Treasury securities and \$200 billion of mortgage-backed securities — an effort to smooth over market disruptions that have made it hard for banks and large investors to sell Treasuries as well as to keep longer-term rates borrowing rates down. The disruptions in the Treasury market sent the yield on the 10-year Treasury rising last week, an unusual move that threatens to push borrowing costs for mortgages and credit cards higher.

By aggressively slashing its benchmark short-term rate to near zero and pumping hundreds of billions of dollars into the financial system, the Fed's moves Sunday recalled the emergency action it took at the height of the financial crisis. Starting in 2008, the Fed cut its key rate to near zero and kept it there for seven years. The central bank has now returned that rate — which influences many consumer and business loans — to its record-low level.

Some of the Fed's new steps are intended to free up money for banks to lend. As businesses across the country see their revenues dwindle as consumers stay home, they will seek short-term loans to maintain their payrolls. The Fed said it has



Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell speaks during a news conference, Tuesday, March 3, 2020, to discuss an announcement from the Federal Open Market Committee, in Washington.

dropped its normal requirement that banks hold cash equal to 10% of its customers' deposits, allowing banks to lend those funds. It also said banks can use additional cash buffers that were imposed after the 2008 financial crisis for lending.

"The Federal Reserve is prepared to use its full range of tools to support the flow of credit to households and businesses and thereby promote its maximum employment and price stability goals," the central bank said.

"It confirms that the Fed sees the economy going down ... very sharply" toward recession, Adam Posen, president of the Peterson Institute for International Economics, said.

The Fed also announced that it has cut interest rates on dollar loans in a joint action that it has taken with five central banks overseas. That is intended to ensure that foreign banks continue to have access to dollars that they lend to overseas companies.

All told, the Fed's actions amount to a recognition that the U.S. economy faces its most perilous juncture since the recession ended

more than a decade ago. Still, with the virus' spread causing a broad shutdown of economic activity in the United States, the Fed faces a daunting task. Its tools — intended to ease borrowing rates, facilitate lending and boost confidence — aren't ideally suited to offset a fear-driven halt in spending and traveling.

"We have to hope that the Fed getting out in front of events, not to mention other central banks, pushes the economy in the right direction," said Adam Posen, president of the Peterson Institute for International Economics. "The heavy lifting for stimulus and for preventing lasting economic damage has to be done on the fiscal side. That's nature of this shock."

"It confirms that the Fed sees the economy going down ... very sharply" toward recession, Posen said.

Posen advocates fiscal steps such as providing sick leave and pay for quarantined workers and rolling over bank loans to small and medium sized businesses hit hard by the outbreak.

"This isn't going to be the magic bullet that saves everything," said Timothy Duy, an economist at the University of Oregon who follows the Fed.

But it sends a signal to Congress that the economy needs emergency stimulus. Duy also predicted that the Fed will follow up with more moves, including possibly changing its inflation target to allow for more stimulus and providing more support for commercial paper — the short-term notes that companies issue to meet expenses.

"I don't think they're done yet," Duy said.

Duy said the asset purchases are an "effort to keep markets from freezing up."

Earlier, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said that both the central bank and the federal government have tools at their disposal to support the economy.

Mnuchin also said he did not think the economy is yet in recession. Most economists, however, believe a recession is already here, or will be soon.. JPMorgan Chase predicts the economy will shrink 2% in the current quarter and 3% in the April-June quarter.

"I don't think so," Mnuchin

said, when asked if the U.S. is in recession. "The real issue is what economic tools are we going to use to make sure we get through this."

On Saturday, President Donald Trump reiterated his frequent demand that the Fed "get on board and do what they should do," reflecting his argument that benchmark U.S. rates should be as low as they are in Europe and Japan, where they're now negative. Negative rates are generally seen as a sign of economic distress, and there's little evidence that they help stimulate growth. Fed officials have indicated that they're unlikely to cut rates below zero.

With the virus depressing travel, spending, and corporate investment and forcing the cancellation of sports leagues, business conferences, music performances, and Broadway shows, economists increasingly expect the economy to shrink for at least one or two quarters. A six-month contraction would meet an informal definition of a recession.

Two weeks ago, in a surprise move, the Fed sought to offset the disease's drags on the economy by cutting its short-term rate by a half-percentage point — its first cut between policy meetings since the financial crisis. Its benchmark rate is now in a range of 1% to 1.25%. □

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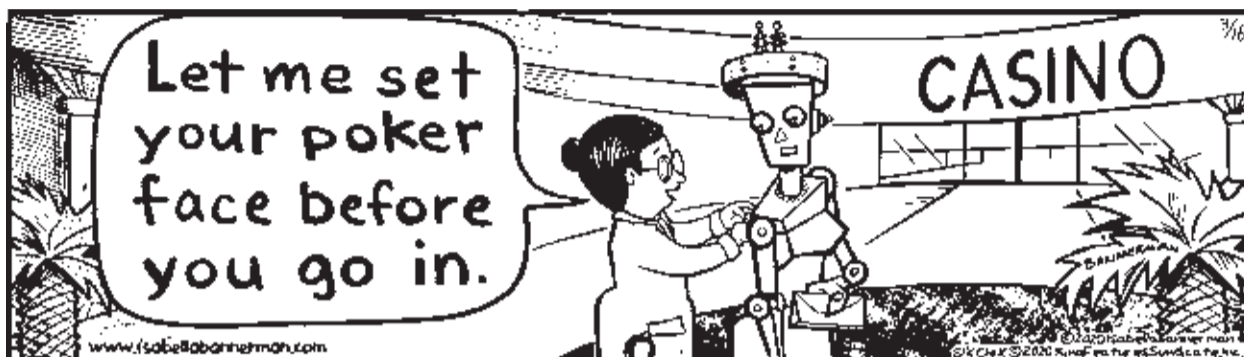
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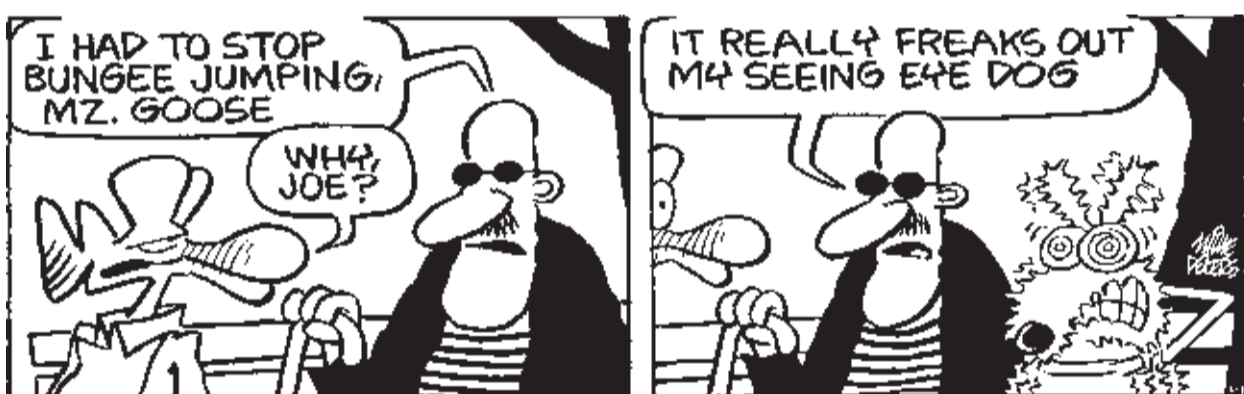
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			6		3
7	3		7	1	5
		5			6
2		3	9	8	5
	8			1	9
	7	9	1	6	
9	2			8	7
		6	4	5	
4			2		

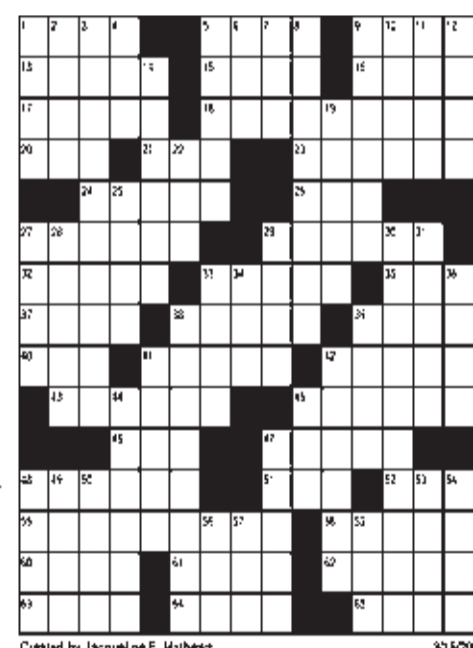
Difficulty Level ★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

5	9	2	6	7	1	4	3	8
7	1	3	4	2	8	9	5	6
6	4	8	9	5	3	1	7	2
9	5	1	2	8	7	3	6	4
4	8	6	5	3	9	2	1	7
2	3	7	1	6	4	8	9	5
3	6	9	7	4	2	5	8	1
8	7	4	3	1	5	6	2	9
1	2	5	8	9	6	7	4	3

- ACROSS**
- 1 Case
 - 5 Takes advantage of
 - 9 Cultural figure
 - 13 Sugar sources
 - 15 -L- like a stud-in
 - 16 Showed up
 - 17 Stric
 - 18 Sleeping pits
 - 20 Post Eton's monogram
 - 21 Kick onese for
 - 23 In the past, not long ago
 - 24 Skited
 - 26 Prescendia nickname
 - 27 Parade marcher's socks
 - 29 Grates cheese
 - 32 Lesson
 - 33 Poplar & inden
 - 35 Area's pace
 - 37 Barker & Denver
 - 38 Uses a crowbar
 - 39 Navy or azure
 - 40 The King and I star
 - 41 up; dismayed
 - 42 Yrs. Rapt-Kramden
 - 43 Thee out
 - 45 Examined carefully
 - 46 Round veggie
 - 47 Stove
 - 48 Canyon sounds
 - 51 Intense rage
 - 52 Rural addr. letters
 - 55 Swindler
 - 58 Weight-revealer
 - 60 Vets. conductor
 - 61 Berpecks
 - 62 Lucifer
 - 63 Diamond of oas
 - 64 Test. lab
 - 65 Str. & Savage
- DOWN**
- 1 Run-off
 - 2 Show-offs
 - 3 Invincible
 - 4 Aviv
 - 5 Ratted
 - 6 We're off to the Wizard
 - 7 Grand finale
 - 8 Bread polishes, rice etc.
 - 9 Frozen dipping
 - 10 Fred Flinstone's home
 - 11 Foreboding sign
 - 12 Hornel's home
 - 14 Cam
 - 19 In weeping
 - 22 FedEx'iva
 - 25 Pa. cross pattern
 - 27 Infant
 - 28 Approximately
 - 29 Hunt for
 - 30 Done on purpose
 - 31 Gravy
 - 33 on wa'ked over
 - 34 de Janero
 - 36 Firm onic Pax



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 3/16/20

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

SET	ABHOR	STAB
EXIT	DRAP	HOLE
GAME	LIVES	RUSE
MERRIMENT	IRON	
RIBS	LEE	
OCEANS	SPEAKERS	
SHACK	LEAST	GET
CARE	JOWLS	TYPO
AFT	POPES	PAPER
REHASHED	MOSTLY	
SIN	MEET	
BRAT	SPLITTING	
ROPE	ORATE	EDIT
OVER	NEVER	RAVE
WEDS	SPARS	KEN

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Virus halts tradition of kissing Ireland's Blarney Stone

LONDON (AP) — For almost 600 years, nothing has stopped anyone so inclined from kissing Ireland's Blarney Stone to gain the gift of the gab. No longer. The new coronavirus outbreak that caused the Irish government to strictly limit social interactions, including by shutting schools, universities and child day care centers, on Friday interrupted one of the country's most-cherished traditions. "This is a necessary step in the current climate, and for the first time in its history, no one will be kissing the Blarney Stone," said Charles Colthurst, the owner of Blarney Castle, home of the famous block of limestone. Legend has it that one of Colthurst's 15th century predecessors had a speech impediment, said. Paul O'Sullivan, the castle's marketing manager. According to the local lore, the castle proprietor saved a witch drowning in the lake on castle grounds. The witch told him that he would receive the gift of eloquence if he kissed the stone. A ritual was born, practiced and repeated without obstacle - until the virus. "For the first time in our history the kissing of the Blarney Stone has been postponed until further notice," read a tweet from the castle posted Friday. Years ago, people had to be held by their ankles and lowered over the battlements to be able to kiss the Blarney Stone. Times change, though, and visitors looking to get the gift now now have to lean backwards and hold onto an iron railing. □

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Halley Time Travel

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1 BR Ocean view \$ 10K
1 BR Ocean Front \$ 20 K
2 BR Ocean View \$17 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$26 K

Marriott Surf Club Platinum
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2 BR Ocean side \$17 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$26K
3 BR Ocean view \$28K

Aruba Divi Phoenix
2 BR PH wk 11/12
Building 9 on the 7th floor
30 weeks remain \$35 K each
1 BR wk 11
Building 7 on the 3rd floor
33 weeks remain \$14 K

Divi Village
2 BR wk 13 \$13 K
Building C 28weeks remain
Casa del Mar
1 BR wk 12 \$7500

Divi Links Golf
1 BR wk 11 \$9 K
Birdie 3 with 26 weeks remain
1 BR wk 12/13 \$9,5 K each
Birdie 10 ground floor
33/34 weeks remain

La cabana beach and casino
1 BR wk 11/12 \$8 5 K each
4 th floor pool /Ocean
Sunday check in
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It's cloudy with a chance of iron rain at hot, faraway world

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.

(AP) — At one hot, faraway world, it's always cloudy with a chance of iron rain.

That's the otherworldly forecast from Swiss and other European astronomers who have detected clouds full of iron droplets at a hot Jupiterlike planet 390 light-years away.

This mega planet is so hot on the sunny side — 4,350 degrees Fahrenheit (2,400 degrees Celsius) — that iron vaporizes in the atmosphere. The iron likely condenses on the cooler night side of the planet, almost certainly turning into rain.

"Like droplets of metal falling from the sky," said Christophe Lovis of the University of Geneva who took part in the study.

The iron rain would be extremely dense and pack a pretty good punch, according to the research team whose study appears



This illustration made available by the European Southern Observatory in March 2020 depicts iron rain that may have been detected in the atmosphere of the ultra-hot exoplanet WASP-76b.

Associated Press

Wednesday in the journal Nature.

"It's like in the heavy steel industry on Earth where they melt iron, and so you see this melting, flowing metal. That's pretty much what we are talking about here," Lovis told The Associated Press.

Discovered just a few years ago, the planet designated Wasp-76b is nearly twice the size of Jupiter, the largest in our solar system, yet takes less than two days to orbit its star. Because the planet's rotation matches the time it takes to complete one orbit, the same

side always faces the star. So it's always daytime on the star-facing side, with clear skies. And it's always nighttime on the night side, where temperatures fall to about 2,700 degrees Fahrenheit (1,500 degrees Celsius) and the sky is continually overcast with iron rain,

according to the researchers.

Strong wind — gusting at more than 11,000 mph (18,000 kph) — constantly sweeps some of the vaporized iron from the day to night side of the planet. Inside the day-to-night transition zone, clouds appear to form as temperatures begin to drop.

"Surprisingly, however, we do not see the iron vapor in the morning" as night transitions back into day, lead scientist David Ehrenreich of the University of Geneva said in a statement.

The astronomers concluded the most likely explanation is that it rains iron on the night side.

Ehrenreich and his team studied Wasp-76b and its extreme climate using a new instrument on the European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope in Chile. □



In this Jan. 31, 2020 file photo, monarch butterflies cling to branches in their winter nesting grounds in El Rosario Sanctuary, near Ocampo, Michoacan state, Mexico.

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The number of monarch butterflies that showed up at their winter resting grounds decreased about 53% this year, Mexican officials said Friday.

Some activists called the decline "heartbreaking," but the Mexico head of the

World Wildlife Fund said the reduction "is not alarming." WWF Mexico director Jorge Rickards said the previous year's large numbers were "atypical" and the monarchs had returned to their average population levels of recent years.

The government commis-

Mexico: Monarch butterflies drop 53% in wintering area

sion for natural protected areas said the butterflies' population was "stable," even though they covered only 2.8 hectares (6.9 acres) this year. That was down from 6.05 hectares (14.95 acres) the previous year. Because the monarchs cluster so densely in pine and fir trees, it is easier to count them by area rather than by individuals.

"During the most recent wintering season the norm has been for the butterflies to cover an average of about three hectares," Rickards said.

"The last season, 2018-19, was very good, with 6.05 hectares of forest cover, but it was certainly atypi-

cal, thanks to the fact that the first generation of butterflies in the spring of 2018 encountered favorable weather conditions to reproduce," he said.

In contrast, butterflies in the spring of 2019 encountered colder weather in Texas than the previous year, and thus were less able to reproduce.

Millions of monarchs migrate from the United States and Canada each year to pine and fir forests west of Mexico's capital.

In contrast to Rickards' view, Tierra Curry, a senior scientist at the Center for Biological Diversity, wrote that "scientists were expecting the count to be down slightly, but this level of decrease is heartbreaking."

"More protections are clearly needed for this migratory wonder and its habitat," Curry wrote.

Environmentalist and author Homero Aridjis said that "the decline of over 53% of populations in the butterfly reserve is worrisome, above

all because of the effects of climate change on the migration route and on the wintering grounds in Mexico." Aridjis said crime and deforestation in Mexico is also a cause for alarm. One butterfly activist and a part-time guide in the reserve were murdered earlier this year.

Last year's numbers were the biggest since the 2006-2007 season. Two years ago, the butterflies covered 2.48 hectares (6.12 acres), similar to this year's numbers. The butterflies hit a low of just 0.67 hectares (1.66 acres) in 2013-2014.

Mexico has made some strides against illegal logging in the reserve, but Aridjis said it remains a problem in some areas. Butterflies depend on health tree canopy to protect them from rain and cold.

Some scientists said the approximately 6-hectare (15-acre) coverage of a year ago should be seen as a minimum for the viability of the migrating monarchs in the future. □

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Ticket sales dive at box office; lowest turnout in 20 years

By JAKE COYLE

NEW YORK (AP) — Ticket sales plunged to their lowest levels in at least 20 years at North American movie theaters as the coronavirus pandemic led to one of Hollywood's worst weekends at the box office.

Receipts totaled about \$55.3 million in U.S. and Canada theaters, according to studio estimates Sunday. Not since 2000 has weekend box office revenue been so low, according to data firm Comscore, when \$54.5 million in tickets were sold on a quiet September weekend. More people went to the movies the weekend after Sept. 11, 2001.

Disney's latest release from Pixar, "Onward," remained the top film, earning \$10.5 million in its second weekend. The Christian romance "I Still Believe" from Lionsgate brought in \$9.5 million. Sony's comic-book adaptation "Bloodshot," with Vin Diesel, grossed an estimated \$9.3 million in its debut. The Blumhouse horror satire "The Hunt" opened with \$5.3 million.

All of those totals were notably below expectations. Most films last week had aimed to do 25% to 50% better. The weekend's sales overall were down 45% from the weekend before, according to Comscore.

While this weekend's crop of films weren't expected to compete with the same timeframe last year, when "Captain Marvel" was in release, revenue was down 60% from the same weekend last year.

Pixar films virtually always hold well for weeks, but "Onward" dropped 73% from its opening weekend. "The Hunt," which remounted its release after its debut was canceled last fall following a wave of deadly shootings, had hoped to do twice as well.

Most of Europe's cinemas have shuttered in recent days, as have theaters in China, India, Lebanon and Kuwait. Those closures have already slashed inter-

national grosses. Health officials are urging for those who can stay home to do so, to help stymie the spread of the virus.

But the wide majority of North American theaters remained open for business over the weekend. The continent's two largest chains, AMC Theaters and Regal Cinemas, said

they wouldn't fill theaters to more than 50% capacity to facilitate social distancing. Others asked moviegoers to leave empty seats around them. All pledged to clean theaters in between screenings.

Other theaters opted to close completely, including many in New York.

Continued on page 31



This image released by Columbia Pictures shows Vin Diesel in a scene from "Bloodshot."

Associated Press

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This image released by HBO shows John Turturro in a scene from "The Plot Against America." The 6-part mini-series, based on the novel by the late Philip Roth, premieres Monday, March 16.

Associated Press

Author Roth weighed in on 'Plot Against America' TV series

By LYNN ELBER
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — David Simon, the creative force behind stellar TV including "The Wire," "Show Me a Hero" and "Treme," found himself in unfamiliar territory with his latest series, HBO's "The Plot Against America."

He'd developed books into shows before, nonfiction works that demanded adherence to facts. But Simon didn't necessarily feel liberated in adapting Philip Roth's 2004 novel, a re-imagined history of World War II-era America made fascist in the grasp of a real-life, wildly popular hero, the aviation pioneer Charles Lindbergh.

"There were things I thought that worked as a novel that were not going to work in a six-hour miniseries," Simon said. He broached his concerns in a 2017 meeting with Roth, the Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist who died in 2018 at age 85.

"I had an idea, but I didn't have the guts to venture it. I mean, he's in the canon, he's one of our great literary voices, and I'm a TV hack," said a self-deprecating Simon. "And I'm asking to play with the end of a novel he wrote. So I didn't have the courage to say, 'What about this, what about that,' I just wanted to know if I had permission to try."

The series debuts at 9 p.m. EDT Monday, with Winona Ryder, Zoe Kazan, John Turturro, Morgan Spector and Anthony Boyle in the cast.

Simon interpreted "Roth's story and brought it to HBO with an urgency and relevance that reflects not only the era Roth evoked but also our world today," said Len Amato, president of HBO films and miniseries.

Roth had detailed his caveats for the TV drama during their conversation, Simon said. The novelist, who relied on his family life in depicting Jewish Americans caught in a pro-Nazi Germany, anti-Semitic political wave led by Lindbergh, asked that the series' characters be differentiated from those in the book.

"He wanted to us to change the name from Roth to Levin, because while he had used his family and himself for the narrative, once actors are cast and other writers are coming in with dialogue, it's no longer exactly pristine to what he imagined," Simon said. "He wanted a little bit of distance for his family."

Roth also requested that TV miniseries make clear that the Jewish characters at its center and the wider Jewish community were assimilated Americans and "becoming more American with every passing minute," Simon said. "So that the fraudulent issue that's always offered in anti-immigrant campaigns, that these people are not Americans like you or I. That they won't become Americans if they're not learning the language fast enough. That their traditions are such that we can question their loyalty. He wanted to make clear that we

understood that and, of course, we did." Roth was insistent that the series capture Lindbergh's achievement — his unprecedented solo flight from New York to Paris in 1927 at age 25 — and the national admiration and fame it earned him and which, in fiction, allows him to ascend to the U.S. presidency.

Simon said that Roth wanted Lindbergh, who in life was anti-Semitic and opposed war against Nazi Germany, to be portrayed as the accomplished man he was. It's the fictional Lindbergh's earned good will for his achievements that allows him to ascend to power in the novel, and Simon said Roth was adamant that the screen depiction reflect that. It was important to Roth that Lindbergh be made distinct from President Donald Trump, according to Simon.

"Mr. Roth, in his comments to me, found it astonishing that Mr. Trump, being a real estate magnate, failed casino operator and not possessed of any particular moment of heroism or public service to the country, had managed to achieve the same standing. ... He wanted to make sure that we gave Lindbergh his due, that his novel would be credible."

"We did," Simon said. "We went to the effort to establish in the narrative that this man became president because he was invested in real heroism."

Roth made similar comments in interviews, including one he gave a few months before his death.

When Simon is asked when he and Roth discussed "The Plot Against America," the query prompts an unrelated anecdote. It was fall 2017, when Simon and longtime writing partner Ed Burns were starting to develop scripts for the series, and the day after the Nobel Prize for literature was announced. Roth was again bypassed, this time in favor of "The Remains of the Day" author Kazuo Ishiguro. In 2016, the surprise recipient was a certain legendary musician.

"I couldn't resist," Simon said. "I made a joke about, 'What's this guy doing with your prize?' and he replied, very quickly, 'At least they didn't give it to Peter, Paul and Mary.' I think he was still mad about Bob Dylan the year before."

He also recalled Roth re-reading the novel's ending, the section that Simon was grappling with, and remaining silent for several minutes.

"Finally, he just closed the book and looked at me and said, 'Well, it's your problem now.'"



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BLOODSHOT

VIN DIESEL | EIZA GONZALEZ

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH	MON-THU 6:10 8:40	FRI 6:10 8:40 11:00	SAT 3:40 6:10 8:40 11:00	SUN 3:40 6:10 8:40
PBP	MON-FRI 4:25 6:55 9:25	SAT-SUN 1:55 4:25 6:55 9:25		

NEW THIS WEEK!

MY SPY

DAVE BAUTISTA | CHLOE COLEMAN

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH	MON-THU 6:10 8:30	FRI 6:10 8:30 10:50	SAT 3:50 6:10 8:30 10:50	SUN 3:50 6:10 8:30
PBP	MON-THU 5:10 7:30	FRI 5:10 7:30 10:00	SAT 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00	SUN 2:50 5:10 7:30

ALSO SHOWING!

ONWARD

Disney PIXAR

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH	MON-THU 5:50 8:10	FRI 5:50 8:10 10:30	SAT 3:30 5:50 8:10 10:30	SUN 3:30 5:50 8:10
PBP	MON-FRI 4:20 6:40 9:00	SAT-SUN 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00		

THE INVISIBLE MAN

ELISABETH MOSS | ALDIS HODGE

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH	MON-THU 6:00 8:35	FRI 6:00 8:35 11:10	SAT 3:25 6:00 8:35 11:10	SUN 3:25 6:00 8:35
PBP	MON-THU 3:55 6:30 9:05	FRI 3:55 6:30 9:05 11:35	SAT 1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05 11:35	SUN 1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG

JAMES MARSDEN | JIM CARRÉ

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PH	MON-THU 6:00 8:20	FRI 6:00 8:20 10:40	SAT 3:40 6:00 8:20 10:40	SUN 3:40 6:00 8:20
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BAD BOYS FOR LIFE

WILL SMITH | MARTIN LAWRENCE

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

PBP MON-SUN 9:10

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Continued from page 29

Of the roughly 5,800 theaters in the United States, about 100 were closed over the weekend.

Jim Orr, Universal's distribution chief, said the industry was doing its best to navigate the unknown.

"We're still all working through it. The circuits are doing a great job of taking government mandates and applying it to their businesses the best they possibly can," Orr said. "This is a unique point in time in our industry and maybe in our nation. But we'll get to the other side of it, and the box office will come back very healthy. It's just a matter of when that might be."

Health officials urged people to stay home and minimize social interaction, especially in states that have instituted bans on larger gatherings. California put a limit on gatherings of 250 people; New York set its ban at 500 people; Ohio banned gatherings of 100 people or more.

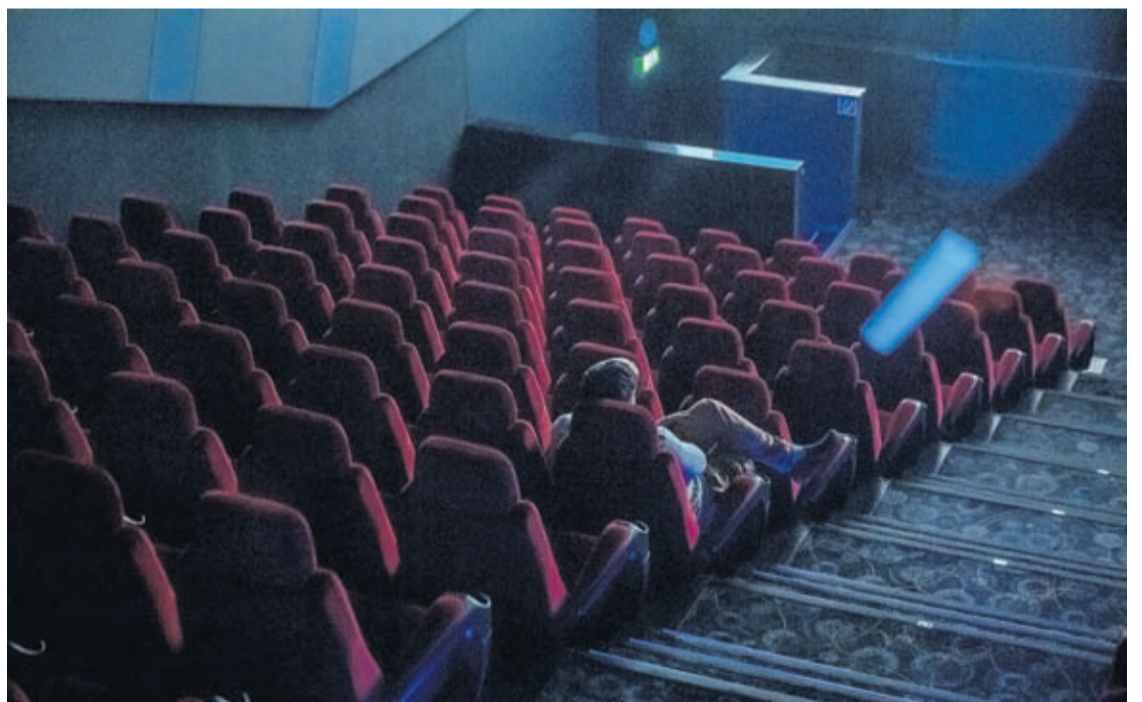
"With the worldwide coro-

navirus epidemic causing many domestic theater chains to go to reduced seating and many international territories to either completely or partially close all theaters, as well as creating uncertainty about going to crowded spaces, all titles have seen larger than expected drops," Disney said in a statement.

Much of the entertainment world has shut down. Broadway theaters, major museums and theme parks have closed their doors. Concerts have been called off. Festivals including South by Southwest in Austin, Texas, and the Tribeca Film Festival in New York have been canceled or delayed. Most live-action film and TV production has been put on hiatus.

Hollywood also has postponed most of its upcoming releases.

Next week's most anticipated movie, "A Quiet Place Part 2," has been removed from the schedule. Other major releases, including Disney's "Mulan" and the



A sole spectator watches a film in a movie theatre in Budapest, Hungary, Thursday, March 12, 2020.

Associated Press

James Bond film "Die Another Day" have been put off.

That means that even if movie theaters remain open in the coming weeks, they will have little to play. Theaters could potentially play older films to help them get by.

"It's so hard to predict how this will play out," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. "It's an ever-changing, ever-evolving situation that the entire world is trying to wrap their minds around. For the short term, obviously there's an impact."

For now, it's likely more theaters will soon close their doors. Over the weekend, cinemas were shuttered in both New Jersey's Bergen County and Pennsylvania's Montgomery County after local governments advised closing all entertainment venues. □

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